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New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

New Partnership for Africa's Development: second consolidated report on progress in implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report responds to General Assembly resolution 58/233 of 23 December 2003, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution at its fifty-ninth session. The report highlights the policy measures and actions taken by African countries and organizations in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the response of the international community and the support of the United Nations system during the past year. Much progress has been made by African countries in developing sectoral policy frameworks, in the implementation of specific programmes and projects and in the earmarking of financial allocations to selected NEPAD sectoral priorities. At the same time, a series of international actions that will potentially benefit the implementation of NEPAD were taken or proposed by the international community, while the United Nations system continues to provide support on a broad range of issues. As the implementation of NEPAD moves forward, a strengthened partnership is needed, one in which African countries deepen their commitment to the priorities of NEPAD while its development partners take a combination of well-targeted measures to bolster the implementation of NEPAD.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 58/233, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution at its fifty-ninth session. This report responds to that request.

2. The report highlights the policy measures and actions taken by African countries and organizations in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the response of the international community and the support of the United Nations system during the past year. The activities undertaken by both the private sector and civil society in support of NEPAD are discussed in various parts of the report. The report benefited from information and data provided by Member States, regional organizations, the NEPAD secretariat and various entities of the United Nations system.

II. Actions by African countries and organizations

3. A distinguishing feature of NEPAD is that it combines the articulation of policy frameworks on specific issues with the implementation of programmes and projects in the sectoral priority areas. The past year has been marked by progress in developing sectoral policy frameworks, implementing specific programmes and projects and establishing targets for expenditure on selected NEPAD sectoral priorities. Although the trend of setting targets of expenditure for specific sectors cannot be attributed solely to the adoption of NEPAD, which it pre-dated, it has derived fresh impetus from, and has expanded to include, several NEPAD priority areas (see annex, table 1). Establishing targets is also significant in another respect: it demonstrates that African countries are determined to gradually achieve policy coherence in the implementation of NEPAD by aligning budgetary expenditure patterns with NEPAD priorities.

Infrastructure

4. The NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee has approved a list of 20 top priority short-term action plan projects in infrastructure development. These projects, which are mainly subregional in scope, derive from the regional economic communities and will be implemented by them. The plan covers facilitation studies, investment projects (in the areas of energy, transport, water and sanitation, and information and communication technologies) and capacity-building projects. Developing projects linked to capacity-building reflects the recognition that lack of technical capacity is one of the major impediments to building and maintaining infrastructure in the region. The total cost of the projects identified in the plan has been estimated at $8.12 billion; half the cost of the investment projects is to be financed by the private sector.[1] This estimate does not include the cost of activities under the medium- and long-term framework for infrastructure development.

5. The transport sector, in particular road and railway projects, has also benefited from financial support from the African Development Bank (ADB), which has

approved funding for a number of road and railway projects in West Africa. Funding for those projects is part of the broader financial, institutional and programme development support provided by ADB for infrastructure development and other aspects of NEPAD. In 2002 and 2003, ADB financed eight projects and four studies in the top priority short-term action plan, totalling $372.5 million. At present, nine investment projects, three capacity-building projects and five studies are under preparation for ADB Group financing, at an estimated cost of $580 million.

6. The energy sector has benefited considerably from project funding from regional and subregional financial institutions such as ADB and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), as well as the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa. ADB has approved financing for such energy projects as the power interconnection involving Benin, Nigeria and Togo; the power interconnection linking Algeria, Morocco and Spain; the Nile Lake countries electricity networks interconnection study; and the interconnection study of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) electrical network. DBSA has either approved or is considering funding for several power-related projects in various southern African countries, including a power interconnector line linking Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Two major energy projects in Southern Africa — the Southern Africa power pool project and the Southern Africa gas project — have received external financial support, mainly from the World Bank.

7. There has also been progress in the water and sanitation sector. A number of initiatives were launched at the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water, convened in Addis Ababa in December 2003 under the auspices of the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW). These include most notably the ADB rural water supply and sanitation initiative, the African water facility initiative, to be hosted by ADB but to come under the policy direction of AMCOW, and the European water initiative for Africa, which has two components: water and sanitation and integrated water resource management. Under the latter, four pilot river-basin projects, one from each subregion, have been selected for development. They are the Niger and Volta basins for West Africa; the Chad basin for Central Africa; the Victoria basin for East Africa; and the Orange/Senqu basin for Southern Africa. The needs of North Africa have been met in the context of the Mediterranean European water initiative.

8. An important component of the NEPAD information and communication technology (ICT) programme is the NEPAD e-schools project, whose aim is to develop a sustainable knowledge-based society in Africa by bringing ICT skills to a large number of primary and secondary schools in Africa. The plan is to convert nearly 600,000 African schools into NEPAD e-schools. An e-schools demonstration programme is being developed and will soon be launched, initially in six schools in 15 countries — Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. The six schools to be included in the pilot exercise will cover a wide spectrum, ranging from rural to semi-urban and urban areas.

Health

9. An updated NEPAD health strategy was adopted by the African Union (AU) in Maputo in July 2003. The health sector strategy is a medium-term programme that follows a comprehensive, integrated approach to addressing the disease burden of Africa. At the same time, there is a realization that an appropriate set of initial programmes to help set the foundation for the medium term is important. Thus, the initial programme of action of the NEPAD health strategy has six main components: strengthening commitment, enabling stewardship and harnessing a multisectoral effort; launching sustainable health systems and building evidence-based practice; scaling up disease control; reducing health risks associated with pregnancy and childbirth; empowering people to improve their health; and mobilizing sufficient sustainable resources for the health sector.

10. The health strategy recognizes the broader socio-economic and political factors that are at the root of many of the health problems on the continent and emphasizes the contributions of other NEPAD programmes in addressing them. These include addressing issues relating to governance, infrastructure development, gender equality, environmental sustainability, agricultural production and educational development. The strategy recognizes that simply focusing on disease programmes without building the vehicle necessary for their delivery — the health system — will not succeed.

Education

11. Education faces many challenges. In an effort to address them, NEPAD has identified eight priority areas: meeting the Millennium Development Goals on basic education; improving the quality of education; achieving gender equality in education; developing effective feeding and nutrition programmes in schools; promoting open learning and distance education for teacher development as well as capacity-building in the public sector; improvement of mathematics and science education; assisting in the reconstruction of the educational system in post-conflict environments; and supporting member States in developing a comprehensive educational response to prevent HIV/AIDS.

12. Progress in these areas is at various stages of implementation. To facilitate the achievement of universal basic education, preparations are under way for a conference on the NEPAD basic education programme for the subregion of the South African Development Community (SADC). The conference will develop a strategic framework for priority education programmes and projects, an exercise that will ultimately be replicated in other African subregions. Consultations are being held in preparation for a regional conference on the status of gender equality in primary and secondary schools in 2005, which will take stock of the progress made and constraints encountered in Africa in pursuing Millennium Development Goal 3, which has a target date of 2005. A status report on teacher education for open learning and distance education in Africa has been prepared. A meeting on this question was held in April 2004, with the principals of the implementing institutions (University of South Africa, African Virtual University, Commonwealth Learning Centre and National Open University of Nigeria) regarding a programme of action. A proposal has been developed and funding has been secured for support to education in post-conflict environments for selected affected countries.

Environment and tourism

13. The past year saw a broad range of follow-up actions to the NEPAD environment action plan adopted by the African Union in Maputo in July 2003. A partners conference on the NEPAD environment action plan was held in Algiers on 15 and 16 December 2003 to raise awareness of and mobilize resources for the action plan. Out of more than 250 projects in the action plan, more than 80 were selected for presentation at the partners conference.

14. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has committed funding for several projects in the environment action plan, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/GEF medium-sized project on the development of the subregional NEPAD environment action plan. Conserving Africa's wetlands, the prevention, control and management of alien invasive species and the conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal environment and freshwater resources are among the eight priority areas of the NEPAD environment action plan, whose projects also receive considerable financial support from the various partners through support of the NEPAD secretariat. As part of the initiative on the wetland areas, an inventory of the wetlands in the SADC subregion is being developed with the support of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. The initiative also aims to engage civil society organizations in better management of wetlands at the grass-roots level.

15. A regional strategy for disaster risk reduction was developed by the African Union Commission and the NEPAD secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. It was submitted to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for adoption at its tenth session and endorsed by AU in Addis Ababa in July 2004. The strategy is aimed at contributing to sustainable development and poverty eradication by facilitating the integration of disaster-risk reduction into national and subregional development frameworks. Financial support for developing the strategy guidelines and the training programme for disaster-risk reduction was provided by a number of multilateral institutions.

16. A NEPAD tourism action plan was adopted by the African tourism ministers at the forty-first meeting of the World Tourism Organization Commission for Africa. The action plan was endorsed by AU in July 2004. It underlines the importance of tourism as a sector that can contribute to the continent's economic regeneration, particularly through the diversification of African economies and generation of foreign exchange earnings. The plan focuses on eight priority areas: creating an enabling regulatory environment; strengthening institutional capacity; promoting tourism marketing; promoting research and development; promoting investment in tourism infrastructure and products; reinforcing human resources and quality assurance; establishing and adopting a code of conduct and ethics for tourism; and mobilizing financial resources.

Agriculture

17. Efforts at implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the centrepiece of the NEPAD agenda, have gathered momentum on several policy and institutional fronts. African Governments have not

only begun the process of aligning their food and agricultural programmes with CAADP, but a few have also indicated that they have achieved or are working towards the goal of allocating at least 10 per cent of national budgetary resources to agriculture within five years, as agreed in the Maputo Declaration on agriculture and food security in Africa, adopted in July 2003. With the support of a number of multilateral institutions, the NEPAD secretariat is developing a tracking mechanism to assist countries in tracking and evaluating their expenditures and budgetary provisions in the agricultural sector.

18. To deepen the process of national ownership of CAADP, African ministers of agriculture have endorsed the establishment of CAADP focal points at the national level to provide additional impetus for its implementation. It is also envisaged that senior policy makers, at the level of Permanent Secretary for Agriculture, will form advisory councils at the subregional level to facilitate implementation of CAADP projects in collaboration with the regional economic communities. Forty-nine African countries have received financial support to formulate national medium-term investment programmes. The NEPAD secretariat will participate in some national processes leading to the formulation of the investment programmes and the preparation of investment project profiles. The NEPAD secretariat has also facilitated a comprehensive continent-wide review of food reserve systems, with the objective of assessing the variety of food reserve systems available and the experience gained in managing them.

19. Strengthening agricultural research and development is one of the major priorities of CAADP. Through NEPAD support, the International Livestock Research Institute was granted C$30 million by the Canadian International Development Agency. A portion of these funds will be used for the establishment and support of agricultural centres and networks of excellence on the continent. The NEPAD secretariat is currently engaged in consultations with regional stakeholders on a multi-country agricultural productivity programme aimed at achieving sustained rural poverty reduction by strengthening African agricultural technology systems. Since much can be learned from agricultural successes and failures that may assist in the implementation of CAADP, an international policy conference on successes in African agriculture was held in Pretoria in December 2003. The Pretoria statement issued by the conference identified processes, technologies and institutions considered to be prerequisites for replicating and expanding agriculture successes.

Science and technology

20. Science and technology is a NEPAD area of priority. Science and technology plays a critical role in economic growth and development, and there is growing recognition that the prospects of achieving the Millennium Development Goals will depend heavily on the ability of nations to harness science and technology in order to address a range of social and economic problems. There is no single model for science and technology development, but the approaches that have proven successful have included three main ingredients: a critical mass of scientific and technological skills and capabilities; adequate resources to finance investment in basic and applied science; and institutions that promote and foster the diffusion and adaptation of scientific and technological knowledge, as well as innovation.

21. The importance of these three elements was underlined in the outcome documents of the First NEPAD Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology, which was convened in Johannesburg, South Africa on 6 and 7 November 2003, in collaboration with the Government of South Africa Department of Science and Technology. In addition to adopting a declaration, the Conference agreed on the outline of a plan of action to promote the development and application of science and technology and to guide the development of a coherent business plan. The outline identified flagship programmes to be implemented as part of the business plan; articulated a policy framework for creating centres of excellence for the development of science and technology policy; spelled out the governance structure for science and technology programmes in Africa; and recommended measures and mechanisms to mobilize resources through public and private sector investment in research and development and through research institutions. The business plan is still being developed.

Industrialization

22. The African Productive Capacity Initiative is evolving into the policy framework for Africa's industrialization effort. Adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry in November 2003, the Initiative is a comprehensive programme for developing value chains based on the existing strengths and competencies of organized groups of stakeholders active in promoting productive capacity at the country and sectoral levels. It recognizes that value chains have a geographical dimension, which may be national, regional or global. Accordingly, under the Initiative, each of the subregions has selected particular sectors to which they will assign priority. The subregions have chosen from among eight sectors: food processing; textiles and garments; mineral products, including metals; wood and wood products; automobile equipment and assembly; pharmaceuticals; and building materials. Nearly all subregions have selected the food processing and textile sectors.

23. The Initiative is a collaborative effort that envisions public-private partnerships at every level. Thus, the private sector, along with the public sector, will contribute to providing resources to the African Productive Capacity Facility, the funding mechanism envisioned for the Initiative. The Facility will be endowed with an initial sum of about €5 million from the defunct Industrial Development Decade for Africa Fund. The Initiative was endorsed as the NEPAD component on sustainable industrial development and received the support of AU in July 2004.

24. An important complementary action taken in the past year was the launching of an African investment initiative at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Global Forum, held in October 2003. The aim of the initiative is to create a positive environment for investment across the continent through a number of concrete actions to be implemented over the coming years under the OECD-NEPAD partnership. The key areas identified for action are investment policy capacity-building, reviewing progress in enhanced investment policy transparency and openness in African subregions, promoting the contribution of multinational enterprises to sustainable development and the role of African Governments, investment policy reviews, and official development assistance-foreign direct investment (ODA-FDI) synergies. Needs assessments will be

conducted for selected African partner countries to determine how they could benefit from ODA-supported strategies for enhancing the investment climate.

African Peer Review Mechanism

25. Much progress has been made in moving the African Peer Review Mechanism process forward. The work programme and the rules of procedure for the African peer review panel of eminent personalities were adopted in February 2004 in Kigali, Rwanda. A separate secretariat has been established for the Mechanism. A trust fund is also to be established for the Mechanism which will finance the activities of the panel, the secretariat and the country-review teams. Individual member States will fund their own in-country reviews. Several African countries have pledged contributions to the trust fund, and each participating member State is expected to make a minimum contribution to the financing of the Mechanism. Taken together, both actions mark an important and welcome step in buttressing the principle of Mechanism ownership with financial commitments.

26. The number of countries that have signed on to the Mechanism has risen to 23. They are Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The increase in the number of countries joining the Mechanism indicates the growing appeal of its voluntary approach and African ownership and leadership of the process. A schedule for the peer review of the participating countries has been agreed upon.

27. Mechanism support missions were sent to Ghana in May 2004, to Rwanda and Mauritius in June 2004 and to Kenya in July 2004. The support missions are a pre-country-review phase, in which members of the review panel, assisted by the Mechanism secretariat and NEPAD strategic partner institutions (AU, the Economic Commission for Africa, ADB, and the United Nations Development Programme), assess the preparedness and capacity of the country to participate in the African peer review process, particularly to undertake self-assessment and prepare a national programme of action. The missions also ascertain the robustness of Mechanism instruments, including the degree of participation of major stakeholders in the national process. After the support missions are completed, each participating country is expected to undertake a self-assessment with a view to preparing the preliminary national programme of action. The country self-assessment is the first of the five stages of the peer review process. It is followed by a country review visit by the panel, which then prepares a country review report. The overall aim of the country review, and more generally of the peer review itself, is to help countries identify institutional, policy and capacity weaknesses, suggest remedial measures to such shortcomings and seek support for that effort.

Other policy and institutional issues

Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the implementation of NEPAD

28. Gender mainstreaming refers to incorporating the gender dimension across all sectors of development. Much effort has been made to integrate the gender dimension into the planning and implementation of various aspects of NEPAD. A

gender perspective has been incorporated into thematic priority sectors and women have been actively involved in regional NEPAD governance structures and have participated in national decision-making bodies for the implementation of NEPAD programmes. The review panel of eminent personalities, an important NEPAD governance structure, is composed of seven persons — three women, one of whom is the peer review chairperson, and four men. Several women holding high-ranking positions represent their Governments on the NEPAD Steering Committee and participate in the meetings of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee. Women also hold senior level positions in the NEPAD secretariat. Two recent developments have significantly complemented the active and high-level participation of women in the NEPAD governance structure. One is the 50-50 gender balance in the composition of African Union commissioners. The other is the declaration on gender equality in Africa, adopted by the African Union in July 2004. The declaration commits African Governments to implementing gender equality and gender mainstreaming.

29. At the national level, women hold senior managerial positions in most NEPAD national focal points, enabling them to contribute to the coordination and implementation of NEPAD policies and programmes. Equally important, women occupy decision-making positions as ministers, deputy ministers, advisers, permanent secretaries or directors-general in ministries or departments of finance, planning, agriculture, transport, education and health — key areas in the implementation of NEPAD.

The role of the regional economic communities in implementing NEPAD

30. The active involvement of the regional economic communities is generally acknowledged as being essential to the successful implementation of NEPAD. In an effort to strengthen that involvement, the Chairman of the Implementation Committee convened a meeting of all chief executives of regional economic communities at Abuja in October 2003 to examine the role of the regional economic communities in the implementation of projects. A follow-up meeting is planned to allow the communities to share information and experiences on their current implementation practices and approaches. The regional economic communities have, with the assistance of ADB, been instrumental in proposing projects for the short-term action plan for infrastructure development.

Integrating NEPAD into the AU Commission

31. NEPAD is a programme of the African Union. It was also adopted as a programme of the Organization of African Unity at Lusaka in 2001. The integration of NEPAD into AU is therefore less a question of policy and functional integration, which has been settled, and more a matter of institutional arrangements for managing the NEPAD process within the existing structures of the AU Commission. The NEPAD secretariat is now an integral part of AU, and it will be gradually integrated into the structures of the AU Commission.

Challenges and constraints

32. By earmarking financial allocations to selected NEPAD priorities, African countries have not only underlined the importance of those sectors, but they have

also given practical expression to the principle of ownership through adequate financial commitment. Yet, many countries face severe fiscal constraints in the short to medium term, suggesting that external support will be needed to achieve the established targets of expenditure on NEPAD priorities. There are other constraints impeding progress in specific sectors. In the infrastructure sector, for example, implementation is encountering the problem of long project-approval cycles in partner institutions, limited grant resources for project preparation and severe technical capacity constraints at the national level and in the regional economic communities. In agriculture, despite progress in the implementation of CAADP, several problems persist. Many countries will not meet the target of allocating 10 per cent of budgetary resources to agriculture in the next five years, not least because of the constraint of the medium-term expenditure framework. Agricultural extension services, which are crucial for disseminating new knowledge and practices, continue to suffer from lack of funding and a critical mass of technical expertise. Compounding all these problems is the decline in the share of aid devoted to agriculture worldwide and in Africa. The health sector is afflicted by a two-fold human resources crisis: on the one hand, some of the highly trained professionals are migrating to the developed countries, and, on the other hand, health professionals who are in the front line of care and treatment of HIV/AIDS are themselves falling victim to the pandemic, further impeding adequate delivery of vitally needed medical care. In varying degrees, and in some countries, the education sector is experiencing a severe loss of professionals for more or less the same reasons as is the health sector. Moreover, the African Union Commission and subregional organizations are required to play an important role in NEPAD implementation. They are constrained in terms of financial resources, and they need assistance to build their capacity.

III. Response of the international community

Strengthening partnership for NEPAD

33. The past year witnessed a series of international actions that will potentially benefit the implementation of NEPAD. The African Partnership Forum was established to deepen the policy dialogue on support for Africa's development. The Forum brings together representatives of OECD countries that give $100 million or more in aid to Africa, multilateral institutions and representatives of the 20 countries that serve on the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, the AU Commission and the representatives of the African regional economic communities recognized by AU. The inaugural and second meetings of the Forum were convened respectively by the Presidents of France and Mozambique in Paris in November 2003, and in Maputo in April 2004.

34. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland established the Commission for Africa in February 2004. It will make a comprehensive assessment of the situation in and policies towards Africa and deliver its report in 2005. The Commission seeks to generate increased support for the Group of Eight (G-8) Africa action plan and NEPAD. The Millennium Challenge Corporation, established by the United States Government, invited 16 eligible countries, eight of which are African, to submit proposals for aid from the Millennium Challenge Account. Countries were selected on the basis of their

performance in three broad categories of indicators: encouraging economic freedom, investing in people and ruling justly. The eight African countries invited to submit proposals in the current fiscal year include Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique and Senegal.

Debt relief

35. One of the outcomes of the G-8 summit held at Sea Island, Georgia, United States, in June 2004, which will potentially benefit African countries, was the decision by G-8 Leaders to extend the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative until 31 December 2006, to provide the necessary financing for completion of the Initiative, including "topping up" where appropriate, and to consider measures that can further help the poorest countries address the sustainability of their debt relief.[2] This might result in increased funding for the HIPC Initiative, which could contribute to greater relief for some current beneficiaries and extend coverage to countries that have yet to reach the decision point. African countries that belong to the latter category include Burundi, the Central African Republic, Comoros and Côte d'Ivoire (which reached the decision point under the original HIPC Initiative but has not done so under the enhanced HIPC Initiative), the Congo, Liberia, Somalia, the Sudan and Togo. Under the existing arrangements, 23 of the 27 countries that have qualified for debt relief under the HIPC Initiative are in Africa. These include 11 African countries that have reached completion point: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, the Niger, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda; and 12 countries that have reached the decision point: Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Zambia.

36. For many African HIPC countries, reaching the completion point has not brought the much hoped-for debt sustainability. This has been mainly because the amount of relief a country needs to reach a sustainable debt level was based on assumptions about growth and export levels that proved overly optimistic. Moreover, unexpectedly high import costs, for example of petroleum, have not been incorporated into the debt sustainability analysis. There is now an increasing call for a new framework for debt sustainability that, besides making reasonable assumptions on export and growth projections, should factor in considerations such as limited access to emergency international credit on affordable terms and incorporate more explicitly the impact of debt-servicing on the financing requirements for meeting the Millennium Development Goals, in particular poverty reduction.

37. In addition, it is increasingly appreciated that countries coming out of the HIPC Initiative will have very limited capacity to resume external borrowing, even on highly concessional terms, and will thus require a larger share of grant financing from their development partners. This bears on the negotiations currently under way on the fourteenth replenishment of the International Development Association of the World Bank, as well as on aid provision more generally.

38. A new framework for debt sustainability assessments in low-income countries, under consideration at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), might address some of the present shortcomings, but it will not be linked to, and is

not intended to have any influence on, the implementation of the HIPC Initiative, since its focus will be on future borrowings. Thus far, African countries not covered by the Initiative have not benefited from the new policy framework, also known as the Evian approach, adopted by the Paris Club of creditors in October 2003. The new framework aims for both greater flexibility in dealing with the external debt crisis of developing countries and greater willingness to reduce the debt of countries that are at risk of, or display signs of, insolvency.

39. Meanwhile, several developed countries have granted various forms of debt relief, including debt cancellation. Between 1998 and 2003, the Russian Federation wrote off debt of African countries amounting to $11.3 billion and, in the course of 2003, signed intergovernmental agreements on debt settlement with five countries. France granted debt cancellation to 19 countries as part of its debt relief and development contracts. The French debt cancellation efforts for African countries in 2003 amounted to €1.717 billion, of which €91.4 million were for North African countries and €1.625 billion for sub-Saharan countries. The United Kingdom granted full debt cancellation to the 10 African countries that had reached the HIPC completion point as of April 2004, and it intends to reduce the debt of another six when they have reached the completion point. Portugal contributed to debt relief for Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe, and agreed on a debt-relief protocol with Angola in 2003. Since the launch of NEPAD in 2001, Italy has granted debt cancellation to 20 African countries and has signed bilateral debt rescheduling with six African countries. The Kuwait Fund has also made a contribution by alleviating the foreign debt burden of 12 African countries within the framework for the HIPC Initiative. The debt owed to the Fund by those countries was reduced by rescheduling it over a 40-year period, with a 16-year grace period. Finland has written off the main part (more than €160 million) of the bilateral/multilateral development credits granted earlier. The Finnish Parliament decided to waive repayment on development loans to three African countries. In 2003, Finland wrote off bilateral development aid credits totalling €34.8 million. In 1998, Ireland announced a €40 million debt-relief package in the form of contributions to the World Bank and IMF multilateral debt funds and to national debt-relief funds in the United Republic of Tanzania and Mozambique. In 2001, it paid an additional €5.715 million to the World Bank for debt relief for Ethiopia. In 2004, under the Canadian Debt Initiative (CDI), the Government added Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the list of countries benefiting from Canada's debt moratorium, increasing the total number of countries benefiting under CDI to 13. Six countries, four of which are African — Benin, Ethiopia, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania — have received, or are in the process of receiving, full debt cancellation amounting to about $100 million.

Official development assistance

40. Official development assistance to Africa in 2002 reached $22.23 billion.[3] Preliminary data show that OECD/Development Assistance Committee countries increased their ODA by 3.9 per cent in real terms between 2002 and 2003.[4] Using that growth rate to estimate ODA into Africa would yield an ODA flow of approximately $23.09 billion for 2003.[5] Both before and since the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002, several studies have shown that Africa will need about half of the estimated $50

billion of additional ODA, over the 2001 ODA level, required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Even so, these studies have not explicitly incorporated the financing requirements for building economic infrastructures in the region, which suggests that more ODA resources will be needed. The pledges of additional ODA made by Africa's developed country partners to support NEPAD implementation is a definite step in the right direction. Yet, the need to scale up further the effort to increase ODA to Africa is evident both from the huge financing requirements indicated in various studies and from the fact that ODA flows to the least developed countries, of which 34 of the 50 are in Africa, still fall below the level of 0.15-0.20 per cent of gross national income to ODA agreed in the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

41. There remains an urgent and continuing need to improve the quality and effectiveness of aid to countries in the region. This is particularly important given the continuing evidence that African countries remain burdened by complex reporting, administrative and financial procedures required by donors.[6] Fortunately, there is a growing number of efforts to deal with the issue of harmonization and simplification, as well as improving aid effectiveness overall, as exemplified by the Rome Declaration on Harmonization, the adoption of the action plan on managing development for results, in Marrakesh on 5 February 2004, and the ongoing work of the ECA/OECD secretariat on joint review of development effectiveness.

42. As awareness has grown that the institutional and technical capacity weaknesses in African countries are constraints to promoting growth and poverty reduction, there have been increasing efforts by OECD and non-OECD countries to channel assistance to capacity-building. For example, France has provided trade-related capacity-building assistance directly to several African countries and through its contribution to the Integrated Framework and the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme to Selected Least Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP). Sweden has contributed SKr 12 million to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for capacity-building in West Africa for regional and international trade negotiations and approximately SKr 1.67 million for the establishment of the NEPAD secretariat. A new joint Nordic contribution is also now under consideration for the NEPAD secretariat. France has decided to contribute to the trust fund established for the African Peer Review Mechanism. Moreover, an agreement has been signed between the French Development Agency and DBSA for the establishment of a €2.8 million fund for the evaluation and preparation of NEPAD projects. Ireland has made a financial contribution of €300,000 to help strengthen the institutional capacity of the NEPAD secretariat. The Republic of Korea has offered places in various fields for trainees from Africa. Israel's official international development cooperation centre, MASHAV, has provided training for African experts through a range of economic and public-sector management courses.

Trade

43. The failure of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Meeting in Cancún, Mexico, in September 2003, was a signal event in stalling progress in international trade policy and negotiations on several areas of interest to Africa. Hope has, however, been rekindled with the recent framework agreement on negotiations for the Doha Development Round. Some important elements of the

agreement include commitments by the developed countries to eliminate agricultural export subsidies (at a date still to be determined) reduce trade-distorting domestic farm supports and launch negotiations to cut cotton subsidies and other barriers to cotton trade, to be undertaken separately within the overall agriculture talks.

44. Overall, however, African countries stand to benefit most from liberalization, covering much needed trade reforms within the agricultural sector, in particular the elimination of trade-distorting agricultural subsidies and the reduction of tariff peaks and tariff escalation for semi-processed and processed manufactured and agricultural products.[7] Yet, the impact of liberalization on individual African countries will vary considerably, reflecting the different costs and benefits they experience from current trade regimes. The notable absence of international initiatives on commodities on which African countries, in particular the least developed countries, depend for a substantial share of their export earnings remains a matter of concern. The need for an increased focus on commodities, including the issue of instability in world commodity prices, is being increasingly recognized.

45. There have been tangible results from actions of several of Africa's development partners. These include the signing of bilateral agreements between China and 40 African countries, providing a reciprocal most-favoured-nation status, as well as China's decision to award duty-free status to some goods exported by the least developed African countries; Canada's decision to extend the Least Developed Country Tariff for an additional 10 years by providing duty-free access to the Canadian market, with the exception of dairy products, poultry and eggs; and the signing into law of an extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, known as the AGOA Acceleration Act, through 2015.

Foreign direct investment

46. Flows of foreign direct investment to Africa continue to rise, although the absolute value and share of global FDI flows remain small. FDI flows to Africa increased from $11 billion in 2002 to $14 billion in 2003, accounting for a mere 2 per cent of global FDI flows. FDI flows into Africa are highly concentrated in a few countries and a few extractive industries, mainly oil, gold and aluminium. Developed countries can encourage FDI to Africa through a mix of policy measures, including providing insurance for political and commercial risks, promoting public-private partnerships, promoting agreements to avoid double taxation, enhancing capacity-building efforts for project preparation, facilitating infrastructure development and supporting the creation, or strengthening the regulation, of securities markets. In many of these areas, a number of industrialized countries have provided support. For example, Canada and Denmark have contributed C$ 10 million and DKr 5 million respectively to the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility established at ADB. The United Kingdom has provided support of $100 million for the work of the Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund. As of March 2004, China had signed bilateral agreements with 24 African countries to encourage and guarantee investments, and had signed double taxation avoidance agreements with eight others. Over the past five years, Japan has committed more than $2.5 billion of ODA to Africa in the areas of transport, communications, energy and water. Of that amount, approximately $1.06 billion was earmarked for infrastructure in 2003.

47. France has provided financial support to ECOWAS in connection with the establishment of a regional regulating mechanism within the framework of the West African electrical energy exchange system project and for the creation of a guarantee facility offering several risk cover instruments to support financial integration, improve the investment climate and build capacity in the countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union. The Icelandic business development programme, which encourages the formation of partnerships and joint ventures with firms in developing countries, has had a special focus on Africa and is actively engaged in Uganda. Denmark has a comprehensive private-sector support programme with a trade and investment component that is active in some African countries. Portugal has adopted double taxation agreements with Angola, Cape Verde and Mozambique in order to promote bilateral trade and investment.

South-South cooperation

48. There is increasing realization that South-South cooperation, as an important complement to international development cooperation, can play a role in the implementation of NEPAD. The General Assembly, in its two resolutions on international support for NEPAD, has affirmed the need to promote South-South cooperation. A recent significant development was the launch of the third round of negotiations on the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among developing countries to expand South-South trade, at the eleventh United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The aim was to have more developing countries join the negotiations on GSTP, which currently involve 43 countries. Thirteen African countries are now members of GSTP. A commitment was made that the third round will work towards developing concrete preferential measures in favour of least-developed-country participants.

49. During the past year, several countries from the other developing regions have provided technical assistance to African countries. Pakistan runs a special technical assistance programme for Africa, under which it has offered training for African diplomats. Indonesia provided a technical cooperation programme in 2003 to 11 African countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe). As a follow-up to the third Tokyo International Conference on African Development, an Asia-Africa business forum and an Asia-Africa public and private joint forum were organized as part of the preparatory process for the international conference on Asia-Africa cooperation for trade and investment, scheduled to be held in late October 2004.

Challenges and constraints

50. A fundamental policy challenge in international support for NEPAD is achieving coherence of policy actions. Policy coherence is not yet at the core of assistance to Africa. The need for policy coherence in international assistance to Africa is highlighted by the lack of complementarities in debt, aid and trade policies towards Africa. For example, for a period stretching back more than 20 years, ODA to Africa has been almost offset by debt service (see annex, table 2). Other examples of incoherence are evident in trade and ODA, as well as trade and debt relief. For nearly a quarter of a century, starting in 1970, the dramatic decline in Africa's

market share amounted to an estimated income loss of $70 billion per year, almost five times the average annual amount of ODA to Africa.[8] Moreover, the sharp drop in prices of key export commodities explains the deterioration of net present value of debt-to-export ratios relative to ratios projected at the decision point for 2001. Of the 15 HIPCs, 13 are African.[9] Improved policy coherence promises to be a virtuous link in the cycle of increased and effective aid, reformed trade policies and debt relief by developed countries towards Africa. Encouraging developments in developing policy coherence include Sweden's national legislation on an integrated global development policy, which calls for its policies in the areas of trade, aid, agriculture, migration, security and other policies to be consistent with the goal of poverty reduction and sustainable development, as well as the publication of reports by Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands on their progress towards fulfilling goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals. A number of other developed countries are contemplating preparing reports on goal 8.

IV. Support by the United Nations system

51. The United Nations has a key role to play in mobilizing international support to NEPAD. In this regard, the Secretary-General has set up an advisory panel, consisting of 13 members, to assist him in monitoring international support to NEPAD. The Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development will review and assess the scope and the adequacy of international support for NEPAD, conduct a dialogue with Africa's development partners, including the United Nations system, with a view to promoting support for NEPAD, and make recommendations to the Secretary-General on actions to be taken by the international community to enhance support for the implementation of NEPAD.

52. The United Nations system is one of the major pillars of international support for NEPAD. The nature and scope of the support has broadened in the past year. This section draws on and updates information provided in the recent, detailed report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/2004/6) prepared for the forty-fourth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The support of the United Nations system encompasses a variety of activities, including technical assistance for institutional development, capacity-building, project development, resource mobilization and advocacy. The regional consultation meeting of United Nations agencies working in Africa has established thematic clusters for NEPAD priority areas. ECA provides leadership for the regional consultation meetings of United Nations agencies.

53. ECA also actively supports the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism. ECA helped develop some of the Mechanism codes and standards, provides country economic and governance data to the Mechanism secretariat and has participated in the support missions fielded by the Mechanism secretariat. ECA has collaborated closely with United Nations system agencies and other partners, in particular ADB and the regional economic communities, in supporting NEPAD infrastructure development. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has been collaborating with WTO and the International Trade Centre in extending the Joint International Technical Assistance Programme (JITAP) to 16 African countries, aimed primarily at building national capacity for trade negotiations and trade development. The Office of the High Representative for

the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States supports NEPAD implementation mainly through advocacy, infrastructure development and resource mobilization in 34 African least developed countries. The WTO supports NEPAD through its technical assistance activities. Its technical assistance strategy for Africa aims to support Africa's trade and economic reform as well as its process of integration into the multilateral trading system. The WTO secretariat annual technical assistance plans continue to accord priority to the delivery of technical assistance to the least developed countries, the majority of which are in Africa.

54. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has earmarked technical and financial assistance for the formulation of national medium-term programmes and bankable quick-impact investments in 49 African countries, to which it has committed about $7 million. WFP has supported NEPAD in developing a strategy on emergency preparedness and emergency response within the framework of a memorandum of understanding between WFP and the NEPAD secretariat. The main objectives of this collaboration are to study indigenous food reserve systems in African countries, build capacity for national food planning and distribution, target food for children through school feeding programmes and build subregional capacity for food disaster mitigation and response. By the end of 2003, the International Fund for Agricultural Development had provided African countries with loans totalling approximately $3.6 billion, to finance 317 projects in 51 countries. As of April 2004, of 199 projects supported by the Fund worldwide, 97 are being carried out in Africa, representing 47 per cent of the Fund's overall current financing.

55. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) supported the development of the NEPAD cities programme, designed to increase South-South cooperation in meeting urban-rural development challenges. The programme aims to achieve poverty reduction in urban centres. UNEP is strengthening subregional consultations as a vehicle for fostering cooperation and collaboration with AU and the NEPAD secretariat by strengthening advocacy and public information activities in support of NEPAD, supporting environmental policy development in African countries and mobilizing resources for the NEPAD environment action plan. The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is working closely with the NEPAD secretariat to foster joint programming at the subregional and local levels to combat desertification and to support more sustainable agricultural and economic development. The International Labour Organization is assisting AU to prepare for the summit on employment and poverty in Africa, to be held in September 2004. The summit is expected to lead a determined effort to achieve greater convergence of national policies, with a view to upgrading the quantity and quality of work and enterprise development in African countries.

56. In the United Nations Secretariat, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs supports African countries in capacity-building for public administration and governance and human resource development. It also supports integrated water resources management and energy, including the development of water master plans, rural water supply and renewal energy solutions, as well as the integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations supports individual countries in attaining and maintaining peace as a means for sustainable development and meeting NEPAD objectives. Africa is a priority area

for the Department and has the largest share of its resource allocation. For its part, the Department of Political Affairs has been working closely with the AU Commission and subregional organizations in supporting regionally and subregionally led peace initiatives, such as the regional peace initiative on Burundi, the African Union-led inter-Congolese dialogue, the African effort to convene a conference on peace and development in the Great Lakes region and the peace processes led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Somalia and the Sudan.

57. WHO supports African countries in their development of health strategies and interventions based on WHO methodologies and health regimens that have proven successful in the development of sound health plans and programmes at the national level. It also helps various countries to use their national health development plans and programmes as advocacy tools in their efforts to mobilize resources. WHO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) collaborated closely in initiating supportive actions for the establishment of a health and social affairs desk within the regional economic communities. UNFPA has been working closely with the African Union and other partners in developing the action plan on the African family. UNFPA has also supported the preparation of the document entitled "The African family in the new millennium: prospects and challenges" and has provided technical and financial support to the African Union Commission for preparation of a report on the state of Africa's population, which was recently submitted to the AU Executive Council. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has been working closely with the African Union and other key partners in developing a policy and a strategy on HIV/AIDS that will elaborate the AU position, strategy and intended actions to reverse the epidemic on the continent. To that end, UNAIDS is supporting a technical consultation of key partners later in 2004. The International Organization for Migration is working with AU and the NEPAD secretariat to formulate a strategic framework for Africa. It is also helping subregional organizations, particularly ECOWAS, SADC and IGAD, build their human-resource capacity for dealing with migration issues such as refugee resettlement, assisting internally displaced persons and reversing the emigration of professionals from African countries.

58. Building on the commitment of African Governments to promote the role of women in society, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) promotes efforts to create an enabling environment for the equal participation of women in political and economic governance by supporting capacity-building and leadership development for African women. UNIFEM also supports gender policy development and implementation through subregional organizations such as ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) actively supports building regional, subregional and national capacity for promoting human rights by mainstreaming human rights concepts and integrating human rights considerations into policies at the highest level. It is working with Governments, civil society and non-governmental organizations to create greater local awareness and to monitor human rights. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provides technical and material assistance to a number of African countries to assist refugees and reintegrate returnees. UNHCR has developed a programme of activities designed to promote post-conflict recovery and effective responses to humanitarian crises. In Africa, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

of the United Nations Secretariat focuses mainly on coordinating humanitarian operations and protecting civilians. The Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Support Office now serves as a major platform for dialogue between OCHA and SADC. OCHA has signed a memorandum of understanding with ECOWAS, with the goal of enhancing the latter's capacity in humanitarian crisis and conflict management.

59. The World Bank has assisted NEPAD in the formulation of CAADP and the NEPAD environmental action plan. It is also working closely with ADB and other partners in developing the NEPAD short-term action plan for infrastructure development and has approved funding for component projects of the plan and for the CAADP multi-country agricultural productivity programme. Overall, the Bank provides more than $3 billion of annual financial support to African countries. IMF has established two Africa regional technical assistance centres in West and East Africa. Training programmes are being implemented with other regional and subregional partners on issues such as monetary policy, fiscal decentralization and gathering financial statistics. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has played a leading role in supporting the development of the NEPAD component of sustainable industrial development known as the Africa Productive Capacity Initiative and has developed several integrated programmes at the national, regional and sectoral levels to advance the implementation of productive capacity. UNIDO has also established an Initiative support group to promote the collective mobilization of resources.

60. UNDP has provided financial assistance to the NEPAD and African Peer Review Mechanism secretariats, funding for the start-up phase of the Mechanism and, as mandated by the African peer review forum, has established an implementation trust fund to support the work programme of the Mechanism. In addition, UNDP country offices are anchoring financial and technical support to the implementation of the Mechanism and to its national focal points. UNDP has also provided financial and technical support for the transition from OAU to the African Union, particularly with respect to the elaboration of the vision, mission and strategic plan of the AU Commission, and has supported the AU Peace and Security Directorate in setting up the Peace and Security Council. The United Nations Capital Development Fund is focused on helping the least developed countries in Africa formulate and implement local development projects and microfinance. The Fund is also piloting the MicroSave project, which seeks to promote high quality saving services for the poorest people in three East African countries.

61. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been working closely with AU, the NEPAD secretariat and subregional organizations, as well as at the national level through the UNESCO national committees, to integrate and support NEPAD priorities through technical support and human resources development. In particular, UNESCO assisted the NEPAD secretariat in refining and finalizing its initial plan of action in education. UNESCO supports an ongoing dialogue with African parliamentarians to promote national policy development around NEPAD themes and has hosted technical subregional forums to engender broader policy and programme support in Government and decision-making structures at the national level. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supports the implementation of NEPAD priorities mainly through country programmes of cooperation implemented in all African countries. These programmes of cooperation place special emphasis on

health and education. UNICEF is one of the main partners in the immunization of children throughout the continent and in the education of girls in Africa. Following the launch of the AU/ECA/NEPAD/UNICEF publication *The Young Face of NEPAD* in 2003, UNICEF has been working actively with the three partners and individual countries to implement the complementary strategies presented in the document, focusing on key strategies for preparing a healthier, better educated and better prepared generation of Africans.

62. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is currently supporting institution-building and awareness-raising with regard to the intellectual property system in Africa. WIPO has collaborated with national and regional institutions, such as the African Regional Industrial Property Organization and the African Intellectual Property Organization, to promote practical knowledge and technical expertise to enforce intellectual property rights, design intellectual property management systems and establish industrial property and copyright offices in many African countries. The International Maritime Organization assists African countries in developing maritime and port security procedures to ensure that African ports are free from security threats. It financed the technical cooperation programme for the African region in 2003 by bringing together South-South partners for human resources development and to protect marine life at the national and subregional levels.

63. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) remains committed to providing full support to African member States in implementing projects within the NEPAD framework to enable them to bridge the digital divide. ITU is currently implementing a NEPAD preliminary assistance project that supports African countries in developing bankable projects for the telecommunications and ICT sectors, including telemedicine projects, e-commerce and e-government. ITU also works through subregional organizations, and is currently piloting an integrated ICT market programme for the ECOWAS region. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) continues to support African countries in restructuring, expanding and managing their civil aviation administration, through human resource and infrastructure development. ICAO is also collaborating with subregional organizations such as ECOWAS, the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa, the East African Community and SADC, to implement subregional initiatives such as the Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programmes. The International Atomic Energy Agency works through its technical cooperation programme to support member States efforts aimed at strengthening institutional capacity-building in nuclear sciences and technology and promoting the sustainable application of nuclear techniques for social and economic development. Assistance is delivered in the form of expertise, training opportunities and equipment supply.

64. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa provides support for the implementation of NEPAD through its reporting, advocacy and analytical work at the global level. During the past year, it undertook a range of activities to contribute to the mobilization of financial resources and technical cooperation for the implementation of NEPAD and prepared a number of studies to share experiences on the implementation of NEPAD. As a contribution to mobilizing financial resources for Africa's development and the implementation of NEPAD, the Office convened a round-table discussion on "Capital flows to Africa: potentials for financing the New Partnership for Africa's Development", in October 2003, which reflected on long-

term financing needs for Africa. The Office also issued publications on experiences with the implementation of NEPAD: *South-South Cooperation in Support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development: Experiences of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Integrating the Priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) into the National Development Process: Experiences from Selected African Countries*. The Office also organized several briefings for delegations on topical issues pertaining to NEPAD.

Challenges and constraints

65. In spite of the progress made, the United Nations system faces a number of challenges and constraints in supporting NEPAD. First, increased financial commitment by the United Nations system for NEPAD is dependent on the United Nations and the agencies receiving additional financial resources for these programmes. Second, while the organizations of the United Nations system are required to initiate an increasing amount of joint programming and new initiatives, the lack of additional financial resources limits the scope and prospect of joint activities.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

66. As the implementation of NEPAD moves forward, a strengthened partnership is needed, in which African countries deepen their commitments to the priorities of NEPAD and its development partners take a composite of carefully targeted measures and actions to give NEPAD a major impetus. As its contribution to this process, the United Nations system is committed to using its existing coordination mechanisms at the global, regional and national levels to promote coherent support for NEPAD.

67. African countries have demonstrated their commitment to advancing the implementation of NEPAD by earmarking financial allocations to selected sectoral priorities. They will need to make every effort to reach the set targets in the shortest time possible. This will depend partly on efforts to mobilize domestic resources in the first instance, and partly on an international environment that is more favourable to Africa.

68. The development partners of Africa can give further practical expression to their support for the efforts of African countries by taking action in three important areas: first, by creating an enabling international environment that is supportive of growth and development in Africa; second, by bringing much needed coherence to trade, aid and debt policies, so that African countries are the net beneficiaries of international actions in those areas; and third, by undertaking concrete measures to accelerate the implementation of NEPAD by making significant financial outlays to fund the key sectoral priorities of NEPAD.

Notes

[1] Estimate provided by the African Development Bank, NEPAD Support Unit.

[2] See G-8 Leaders' statement on debt sustainability for the poorest, 10 June 2004. Available from http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/Archive/2004/jun/10-625276.html.

[3] This figure turns out to be much higher than the estimate provided in the last report (A/58/254), which was based on the 5 per cent growth in ODA in 2002 over 2001.

[4] See "Modest increase in development aid in 2003". Available from http://www.oecd.org.

[5] The final figure of ODA to Africa could be lower both because the non-OECD growth could be lower than 3.9 per cent and because the global OECD/DAC figure of $68.5 billion, on which the growth rate is based, may have included debt relief, security-related aid and other things that might ordinarily not be counted as new aid.

[6] For a discussion of how aid projects and their demands on Governments are straining the administrative capacity of African Governments, see the illustrative experiences of selected African countries recounted in "Ranking the rich, 2004", *Foreign Policy* (May/June 2004).

[7] At two recent meetings, African ministers have expressed regret over the lack of progress in these areas and urged action; see the Ministerial Statement issued by the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Kampala on 22 May 2004 (available from www.uneca.org) and the Kigali Consensus on the Post-Cancun Doha Work Programme adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Trade, Customs and Immigration in Kigali on 28 May 2004 (AU/TD/MIN/Decl.1 (II)). African leaders have also drawn attention to another aspect of the commodity problem — the impact of the EU Common Agricultural Policy on commodities; see the Declaration on the Ongoing Review of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Its Impact on Trade in Commodities with ACP Countries (Assembly/AU/Decl.13 (III) of 8 July 2004).

[8] World Bank, "Africa region trade progress note". Available from www.Worldbank.org/afr/trade/wb-assistance_2003-03.pdf.

[9] UNCTAD, *Economic Development in Africa: Trade Performance and Commodity Dependence* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.D.34).

Annex

Table 1
Targets for expenditure on selected NEPAD sectoral priorities

Sector	*Percentage allocation*	*Base of allocation*
Health	15%	National budget
Agriculture	10%	National budget, to be met within 5 years
Water and sanitation	5%	Budgets at all levels of Government (national and local)
Science and technology	1%	Gross domestic product, to be met within 5 years

Sources: For health, the OAU Summit Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, adopted in Abuja in April 2001; for agriculture, the AU Summit Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, adopted in Maputo in July 2003; for water, African ministerial conference on water: conclusions, recommendations and ministerial commitments, adopted in Addis Ababa in December 2003; and for science and technology, the outline plan of action of the First NEPAD Ministerial Conference of Science and Technology, held in Johannesburg in November 2003 — the earmarking for science and technology draws its inspiration from the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa, adopted by the Second Extraordinary Summit of OAU held in April 1980.

Table 2
Net ODA flows to and debt service[a] of Africa

	1990	*1995*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Net ODA flows to Africa[b] (billions of US$)	25.56	21.96	15.78	16.63	22.23
Debt service of Africa on long-term debt[c] (billions of US$)	22.00	20.30	20.00	19.00	17.60
(including private non-guaranteed debt)	23.02	22.24	22.14	21.39	21.93

Sources: OECD/Development Assistance Committee Statistics and Monitoring Division, Development Cooperation Directorate, June 2004.

[a] This refers to debt service of Africa on long-term (public, private guaranteed and private non-guaranteed) debt.

[b] OECD/DAC Statistics and Monitoring Division indicates that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya progressed from part 1 to part II of the DAC list on 1 January 2000. This means that as of that date the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is eligible to receive official aid and not ODA.

[c] UNCTAD, based on calculations from World Bank Data.

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Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/130.

* A/59/150.

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Report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/130, including the recommendations of the eighth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development

Summary

The present report is prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and is being submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session pursuant to its resolution 50/130 of 20 December 1995.

The text presents the inter-agency collaborative mechanisms for effective and integrated follow-up. Eight United Nations agencies, funds and programmes contributed to the review of the existing coordination arrangements.

The recommendations of the eight United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and, in particular, those reached at the eighth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development (Managua, 26-28 November 2001) are: (a) creation of an international consortium on HIV/AIDS communication strategies; (b) collection and sharing of tools from key agencies/implementers to identify and improve access to proven tools and reduce duplication; (c) improvement of training for journalists by reinforcing learning institutions; and (d) encouragement of the production and dissemination of local media contents while keeping a calculated balance between local, national and international contributions.

To make the free flow of information more than a catchy phrase involves movement and networking among many partners. It also requires intersectoral and interdisciplinary cooperation. The social applications of new technologies, such as the Internet, can be realized only through this kind of collaboration, as exemplified by the shared projects of the United Nations agencies.

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I. Eighth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development (Managua, 26-28 November 2001)

1. Communication for development lies at the heart of the challenge to involve people in the process of their own development. When successful, communication for development is a powerful tool in such areas as health, agriculture and population. It has contributed to poverty reduction and social progress in many countries and, in admittedly fewer countries, has led to a fall in HIV transmission rates.

2. The Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development was conceived as an informal international forum for donors and those working in the field of communications to harmonize approaches, provide news on progress and share good practices. Participants included representatives of United Nations agencies, bilateral agencies, such as the United States Agency for International Development, universities and non-governmental organizations. Round tables in this series meet every two years, under the aegis of a United Nations agency that is chosen by rotation.

3. The seventh Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, convened in 1998 in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, and coordinated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), concluded that greater priority needed to be given to evaluating communication programmes and that more resources should be dedicated to developing capacities for catalysing changes in behaviour change.

4. These topics, with specific reference to HIV/AIDS, became the subject of the eighth Inter-Agency Round Table, organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in collaboration with the Panos Institute, the Rockefeller Foundation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The questions examined at this Round Table concerned the role communicators would have to play in the future, whether current strategies, experience and knowledge were appropriate to slow the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and under which conditions they needed to be expanded.

5. Seventy participants were invited to Managua, representing a wide range of organizations and bodies within the United Nations system, bilateral and other donors, non-governmental organizations and communication specialists. UNFPA was entrusted with providing leadership in this timely initiative, which coincided with the renewed emphasis of the United Nations on inter-agency collaboration. The meeting opened with an overview of the role of communication for development in general and communication in HIV/AIDS programming in particular. Practice, evaluation and challenges were then examined from the perspective of three specific theories — behaviour change communication, communication for social change and advocacy communication.

6. The overall message of the meeting was to stress the need to pause and take stock of the current situation and incorporate lessons learned, before deciding how best to turn today's policy and donor climates to benefit those most affected by underdevelopment. At the end of the discussions, the key points were synthesized in the declaration, excerpts of which follow in section II below.

II. Declaration of the eighth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development

7. The eighth Inter-Agency Round Table focused on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the communication challenges it presents. The discussions examined the role of communication, its successes and failures and attempts to deal with the pandemic.

8. The Round Table asserted that:

(a) Communication for development is a powerful process that has shown success in agriculture, population, health, education and many other fields and has contributed substantially to social and economic progress and poverty reduction;

(b) Communication for development is an essential process within human development and must be integrated in economic, political and social change. This process is more than information dissemination. It is a multi-strategy approach that involves and gives voice to all levels of society.

9. On HIV/AIDS communication, the Round Table made the following observations:

(a) HIV/AIDS communicators have been successful in broadening awareness, increasing knowledge of how HIV/AIDS is contracted, placing the epidemic in the context of human rights, increasing knowledge and demand for effective services and mobilizing political support for national health plans;

(b) Local, national and international communities, however, have struggled to make an impact on overall HIV/AIDS rates. Despite increased attention and concern, the pandemic continues to spread;

(c) Recognizing this scenario, the Round Table believes that:

(i) The HIV/AIDS pandemic presents unique and unresolved challenges for communication for development. In the continuing absence of a cure and a vaccine for HIV/AIDS, the capacity of people to communicate with each other is a critical part of containing the epidemic;

(ii) Despite the success noted above, existing HIV/AIDS communication strategies have proved inadequate in containing and mitigating the effects of the epidemic;

(iii) Progress in slowing the epidemic will require a multisectoral response and use of communication strategies to tackle the behaviours related to the spread of the epidemic and to address its causes (inequality, prejudice, poverty, social and political exclusion and discrimination, particularly against women).

10. The Round Table called for:

(a) The international communication response to be rooted in, and subject to, local ownership and agendas;

(b) A redirection of increased resources towards more effective communication programmes based on the principles outlined above;

(c) Programmes to be accountable to those they are designed to benefit;

(d) Increased investments in capacity-building, training and research at the country level in communication for development strategies, evaluation and appropriate indicators; and

(e) A coordinated and concerted multisectoral international and in-country communication response among all partners, involving governments, NGOs, religious leaders, donors, the private sector and particularly those living with HIV/AIDS.

11. **In terms of immediate action, the Round Table recommended the following:**

(a) The formation of an international coalition on HIV/AIDS communication strategies and tools. The work of the coalition will feed into the planning for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;

(b) The collection and sharing of tools from key agencies and implementers to identify and improve access to proven tools and reduce duplication;

(c) The inclusion by UNESCO of the declaration in its biennial report on communication for development to be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

III. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

12. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has been concerned with communication since its inception in 1946. The main orientations of its communication for development policy have, in recent years, been in line with the main policy-development endeavours of other leading United Nations agencies dedicated to human development.

13. In September 2003, UNESCO organized in New Delhi a meeting of international experts to reassess communication for development programmes and to launch new initiatives in this field.

14. The main conclusion was that communication remains essential for development and that radio is an important tool for democracy, as it is still the most widespread medium in rural areas. In addition, the need to improve the training of journalists by reinforcing learning institutions was noted. It was also recommended that UNESCO, together with other United Nations partners, encourage the production and dissemination of local media contents while keeping a calculated balance between local, national and international contributions.

Recent policy changes

15. The action by UNESCO is in line with the objectives set out in the ministerial declaration on the theme "Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy", adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (July 2000), and those set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (September 2000).

16. The first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society was organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in cooperation with other United Nations agencies, in December 2003.

17. UNESCO, with its constitutional mandate to promote the free exchange of ideas and knowledge, played a key role in the Summit, encouraging the broadest possible participation by decision makers, professional communities, representatives of civil society, bilateral and multilateral partners and the private sector in debates on the conditions for the development of an information society for all.

18. UNESCO continues to stress the vital role of the media in producing, gathering and disseminating quality content within the information society. Individual communication has its limits. Communication to the general public and providing a public sphere through the media will continue to be essential for, inter alia, selecting and interpreting information and placing it in its proper context, and serving as a platform for the exchange of information and ideas upon which people can act and/or interact.

19. The Summit also provided an occasion for the launch of a special initiative to scale up community multimedia centres in Mali, Mozambique and Senegal. The centres combine community radio and telecentres to have an impact on development through capacity-building and equitable access to data, best practices and knowledge in the information society.

20. In order to counter warmongering propaganda and incitement to hatred in triggering and aggravating conflict, UNESCO continues, as it has done in South-East Europe and elsewhere, to support local media whose impartiality is internationally acknowledged, that provide non-partisan information and that defend the values of peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding.

21. An international seminar on assistance to media in tension areas and violent conflicts was organized by UNESCO and the Swedish agency SIDA, in close cooperation. Participants recommended that the objective of assistance during conflicts or in post-conflict societies is to strengthen local media initiatives in all phases of conflict management.

New Partnership for Africa's Development

22. UNESCO has, since its creation, been an active partner of the communication development aspirations and endeavours of Africa. UNESCO considers professional training in communication to be a priority, including the provision of equipment for communication practitioners who have the knowledge and skills required to use communication instruments in support of national social, economic, political and cultural development in Africa.

23. The shared commitment of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is to eradicate poverty and to place African countries on a path of sustainable growth and development. UNESCO supports the training of African journalists, recognizing their pivotal role in the democratization processes in Africa. Working hand in hand with relevant national authorities, efforts will be undertaken to ensure that laws limiting journalists' freedom of expression are reviewed.

International Programme for the Development of Communication

24. To enhance its communication for development activities, UNESCO gives high priority to strengthening communication capacities in developing countries, in particular through its International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), funds-in-trust projects and inter-agency cooperation.

25. In the context of its ongoing reform process, launched within the framework of UNESCO comprehensive reforms, a number of important aspects of the programme have been improved. The IPDC Intergovernmental Council decided, at its twenty-second session, to further concentrate IPDC on a limited number of well-defined, innovative and catalytic projects and to give the highest priority to national, regional and interregional projects in the following areas: promotion of freedom of expression and media pluralism; development of community media; human resource development; and promotion of international partnership.

Programme for creative content

26. Promoting the expression of pluralism and cultural diversity in the media and world information networks is considered by UNESCO to be a vital strategic objective . A recent initiative launched in the area of local content production, a key aspect of development communication, is the new international programme for creative content, aimed at stimulating creativity and innovation in local content production for television, radio and new media in developing countries.

Community media, community multimedia centres

27. Information and communication technologies (ICT) constitute a specific strategic objective in the UNESCO medium-term strategy for 2002-2007. The UNESCO programme for community multimedia centres, which combine traditional community broadcasting with telecentre facilities, continues to grow. The centres have been, or are now being, established in about 20 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and South-East Europe. They address the digital divide in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, seeking to ensure that information, communication and knowledge become the basic tools of the poor in improving their own lives through an approach that is cost-effective, country-differentiated and empowerment-oriented.

Public service broadcasting

28. UNESCO continued to support the development of public service broadcasting by promoting editorially independent national public broadcasting services, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and to strengthen the educational and cultural mission of public service broadcasting as a gateway to the knowledge society. UNESCO has been committed to supporting and promoting public broadcasting as well as preservation of its contents, which serve the interests of people as citizens rather than as consumers, by reaching all populations and specific groups and thereby contributing to social inclusion and strengthening civil society.

Training of professionals

29. UNESCO places a strong emphasis on varied professional networks, organized both at the regional level and by media sector. It is through such networks that it vocalizes its concerns and identifies human resources for project development; it is also from such networks that its ideas are drawn in the first place.

30. UNESCO participated in a large number of seminars and workshops in close cooperation with other United Nations agencies, offering its communication expertise for preventive health information in Africa and Asia.

Youth, education and information

31. UNESCO is actively assisting young people in producing information themselves by facilitating the creation of youth information and communication networks, by supporting youth training in ICT and by providing appropriate technologies to youth organizations. An important project for UNESCO is INFOYOUTH, a worldwide information network of government authorities, relevant agencies and youth organizations on youth-related issues. The research and content production aspect in this field is developed through the elaboration of specific tools and guidelines and the publication of books and CD-ROMs on the status of youth in the world.

32. UNESCO has started a research programme on media literacy aimed at promoting critical approaches of young people towards the media. In March 2003 the Thessaloniki workshop elaborated a common Mediterranean curriculum on media education training for teachers and a regional strategy for its integration in teaching programmes. It was crucial to strengthen cooperation with media research institutions and national regulatory authorities and educational institutions, through research and policy development aimed at modernizing secondary school programmes in the region.

Communication research

33. Research has always played an important role in UNESCO communication work. UNESCO is also interested in researching communication as a social process. With a policy of continued development and the goal of being increasingly participative, UNESCO is inviting researchers and practitioners, journalists, civil servants and teachers to contribute actively to UNESCO orientations and programmes, in particular through regional and decentralized approaches. In November 2001, this was articulated during an expert meeting convened at Leicester University.

34. The most recent research and leading experiences are contained in a successful multi-author publication on community media, *Challenges to Development* (Paris, March 2002). The broad areas of UNESCO support for research activities in communication and information include:

(a) Strengthening freedom of the press and independent and pluralistic media structures;

(b) Promoting media literacy in formal education programmes;

(c) Community Multimedia Centres, multi-purpose telecentres and social participation;

(d) Social and cultural impact of ICT;

(e) Cultural and linguistic diversity in cyberspace, ICT and distance education.

Initiative BABEL

35. The objectives of this initiative are to promote the use of multilingualism on the Internet with a view to making its contents and services accessible and more equitable for its users worldwide. The project, based on the application of information and communication technologies, is aimed at supporting linguistic and cultural diversity, preventing language segregation and protecting languages in danger of disappearance.

Gender policies

36. UNESCO has continued to study the marginalization of women in the national media and its impact on their access to development communication activities. It can be argued that the inability of women to have equal access to the communication media also denies them the opportunity to have access to development communication activities.

37. A practical handbook on women in the digital age seeks to introduce key themes for women in the digital age through examples of how women are using the Internet. UNESCO consequently launched, jointly with the Pan-African News Agency, its bulletin entitled "Women of Africa" for dissemination throughout the continent. One of the major aims of the bulletin is to improve the professional standards of women journalists with the aim of increasing their participation in the national media.

IV. United Nations Children's Fund

38. The organizational transition of UNICEF to a programming cooperation approach based explicitly on the human rights of children and women and the medium-term strategic plan (2002-2005) has important implications for communication programming. In particular, two areas need to be underlined: a stronger focus on the participatory dimension of communication — meaning a wider, more conscious, more systematic focus on the active involvement of all stakeholders at all stages of communication programming, from assessment to analysis to planning and implementation; and an effort to focus on reaching the most vulnerable children, women and communities. UNICEF recognizes that behaviour development and social change communication is one of the most important programmatic components in the achievement of outcomes for children, as the attainment of these outcomes relies strongly on changes in the attitudes and behaviour of individuals, families, communities, civil society and decision makers, through increased participation and empowerment.

39. Participatory research and other forms of consultation with the involvement of communities are increasingly utilized as the basis for the development of strategic and evidence-based communication interventions. At the headquarters level, the new programming guidance currently being developed includes training modules on strategic communication planning and community participation. In addition, several

studies that have been completed, on mainstreaming community participation, participatory communication and reaching the unreached and most disadvantaged groups, form the state of the art in participatory communication. The experiences documented and widely shared provide substantive lessons that can be adapted to different situations.

40. Through participatory communication, UNICEF is putting communities at the centre of their own development and building community capacity through innovative approaches, such as appreciative inquiry, which emphasize dialogue as central to development.

41. A major communication initiative that is based on the principle "What every adolescent has a right to know" has a clearly defined adolescent-participation component at all stages, as well as an adolescent-capacity-building component. The initiative places the key information-gathering efforts in the hands of young people, with assistance from UNICEF and other experts.

Special session on children and follow-up

42. A model of participation involving children and adults was achieved at the children's forum, held from 5 to 7 May 2002, and at the special session of the General Assembly on children, held from 8 to 10 May 2002 in New York. The special session and the related events brought together world leaders, national delegations, community representatives and hundreds of children. For the first time in the history of the United Nations, young people addressed the General Assembly on behalf of children, presenting bold ideas and creative solutions to the development issues that affect them directly.

43. Channels set up expressly for the special session, or created in response to it, continue to encourage youth participation in communication for progress. UNICEF country offices were deeply involved in advancing public awareness and involvement through the "Say yes for children" campaign, which has secured the commitment of nearly 95 million people to create a world fit for children.

44. Communication for development is also a means of advocating children's rights, influencing legislation and public opinion and mobilizing resources for children. The Director of Communication of UNICEF currently chairs the United Nations Millennium Development Goals communication working group, which coordinates communication work among United Nations organizations and agencies on the Millennium Development Goals. UNICEF has also contributed resources and ideas to the United Nations/British Broadcasting Corporation/Department for International Development partnership to promote the Millennium Development Goals.

Strengthening communication work in the field

45. Communication includes a number of different functions that can be grouped into two main categories: programme communication and media/external relations communication. While the primary focus of programme communication is on the achievement of specific country programme objectives, external communication is a corporate function that must respond to country, regional and global communication needs.

46. Recognition of the different functions of programme communication officers and media/external relations communication officers has recently resulted in the development of new generic job descriptions. The new descriptions, finalized and released in 2000, cover the entire range of the programme communication and communication posts in UNICEF field offices, from regional advisers to country office assistants.

47. As a result of this clarification, UNICEF field offices have attracted staff with the right mix of competencies to undertake the tasks required in participatory communication, community empowerment, strategic communication planning, implementation and re-evaluation.

Training and capacity-building

48. A training package on communication for behaviour change and development, developed in 1998 and tested in several countries, has been finalized. One key strength of the training process is that it allows participants to learn the basic principles and processes of strategic communication for development planning, while planning the communication component of a specific programme or project or country programme.

49. To further support capacity-building in regions and countries, UNICEF is undertaking a communication capacity assessment, starting with five of the seven regions that UNICEF operates. The result will be a database of communication experts that the countries and regions can draw upon. The assessment will also identify institutions that can be strengthened to facilitate training and/or offer communication support to programmes.

50. UNICEF has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Center for Communication Programs at Johns Hopkins University. The purpose of the memorandum is to further strengthen local and regional capacities and enhance the quality of communication planning, implementation and evaluation.

51. The current strategic priorities of UNICEF — HIV/AIDS, child protection, integrated early childhood development, immunization "plus" and girls' education — are at the centre of all communication for development. Audio-visual campaigns for girls' education and fighting HIV/AIDS have been launched globally, while comparable materials for the remaining concerns are planned for the future.

Trends

52. First, communication is increasingly seen as a necessary and integral component of country-level programming, rather than an ad hoc intervention. Second, while in the past the focus of country-level communication interventions was on advocacy and social mobilization strategic components, in recent years there has been increased understanding of the fact that programme communication — the communication strategy specifically aimed at reaching families, communities and individuals to facilitate informed behavioural change — is a necessary strategic component and needs to be utilized in synergy with the other two, if sustained societal change is to be achieved. Increased attention is also being paid to the systematic use of research data within the planning of strategic communication interventions.

53. Social mobilization continues to be extensively utilized at the country level to mobilize civil society organizations in support of development goals and to create an enabling environment for change. Non-governmental organizations, religious organizations and the private sector have been increasingly mobilized for a variety of programmes, from working with religious leaders in the Sudan to national immunization days in all polio-endemic countries. Other civil society organizations, such as universities and medical associations, are increasingly involved in partnering with UNICEF on a variety of development goals.

Challenges

54. Challenges remain in reaching the unreached and emergency situations, which are two areas that deserve increased attention in terms of communication programming. The use of strategic communication planning for polio eradication in emergency contexts has allowed countries to adapt existing methodologies, creating a richness of experience that needs to be recorded and shared, and whose lessons need to be integrated within existing communication guidance.

V. United Nations Population Fund

55. The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development mandates the following priorities in UNFPA advocacy communication: (a) to build consensus around the Programme of Action principles and goals; (b) to promote reproductive health and rights; (c) to increase focus on young people and displaced persons; (d) to integrate population issues in development; (e) to advocate for gender equity, women's empowerment and partnership with men; and (f) to mobilize resources for reproductive health and population issues.

56. In support of population and development, reproductive health, reproductive rights and gender equity, the UNFPA communication approach is to ensure complementarities between advocacy and other communication strategies critical to the Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals. These include behaviour change communication, education and social/community mobilization, operating at three levels: global or interregional, regional, and country programmes.

57. UNFPA is one of the sponsors of UNAIDS and focuses its HIV/AIDS work on prevention issues. Owing to the unique challenges that HIV/AIDS presents for population and development communicators, UNFPA organized, in 2001, the eighth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, in collaboration with the Panos Institute, the Rockefeller Foundation and UNESCO.

58. Another major focus of the communication work of UNFPA is the promotion of gender equity and women's empowerment. The efforts to build national capacity in promoting gender awareness and fostering gender equality emphasize the essential role of advocacy, information, knowledge and awareness in improved policy dialogue and attitudinal and behavioural changes.

59. One of the priorities of UNFPA is to improve the reproductive health of adolescents and young people. Recognizing that many attitudes, behavioural lifestyles and gender perspectives are formed during the early adolescent years,

communication strategies are geared towards creating an enabling environment to support adolescent health and development.

60. New information and communication technologies offer additional opportunities to involve communities and get their voices heard in population and development issues. In that regard, telephone helplines are increasingly utilized within UNFPA country programmes for an assortment of age groups. Hotlines are part of multimedia campaigns or are used in tandem with reproductive-health service delivery. Similarly, UNFPA supports the development of compelling and culturally appropriate communications on the International Conference on Population and Development through partnerships among local FM radio networks and community-based organizations dealing with health, education, youth and women.

61. At the global level, advocacy continues to ensure that the international community and international media are aware of the importance of the Conference goals in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Another major aim of global advocacy is to help mobilize resources for population and reproductive health programmes.

62. The new development frameworks also provide an important locus for Conference advocacy, and UNFPA has used opportunities to integrate population, reproductive health and gender issues into national and sectoral policies and plans. UNFPA advocacy efforts help ensure that population and reproductive health concerns are fully reflected in international and national development frameworks, including national reports on the Millennium Development Goals, national poverty reduction policies and plans, sectoral development plans, common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks, and consolidated appeals for countries in conflict and emergency and post-conflict situations.

VI. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

63. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) recognizes the importance of communications programming to promote a social and political environment more conducive to HIV/AIDS prevention, care and impact reduction. The UNAIDS communication programme follows two tracks. The first track supports the mission of UNAIDS as the leading advocate for action against HIV/AIDS. The second track supports the implementation of behaviour change communication activities as part of the comprehensive interventions and services aimed at HIV/AIDS prevention.

64. The special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, held in July 2001, adopted a Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, which noted the role of communication in HIV/AIDS prevention and care. UNAIDS recognizes that without a strong communication component, the goals set out in the Declaration of Commitment cannot be effectively met.

65. The special session was successfully positioned as a turning point in the world's response to the global epidemic. Instrumental in this success was the extensive worldwide media coverage the session received, which, according to the United Nations Secretariat, achieved an unprecedented level for a United Nations

event. The communications strategy for the special session broke new ground in coordinating efforts across the United Nations system and utilizing the strengths of all partners. The strategy also evolved to support the Secretary-General's call to action and his initiative for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

66. UNAIDS has also publicized the critical dimensions of the epidemic to a wide range of audiences through both mass media and traditional means of communication. It produces a range of resource and policy material that inform decision-making at the policy level. The report on the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, 2002, annual epidemiological updates and several other flagship publications form the bedrock of UNAIDS communication efforts to highlight the spread of the epidemic.

67. The UNAIDS web site has emerged as one of the main sources of information for the media and the public at large. The UNAIDS web site has received over a million hits during key HIV/AIDS events, such as World AIDS Day and international and regional AIDS conferences.

68. UNAIDS also provides support to behaviour change programmes at the global and national levels. Its current efforts in this are guided by the goals set in the Declaration of Commitment, which calls on all Member States to ensure that by 2005 a wide range of prevention programmes, including information, education and communication programmes, is available in all countries, that these programmes are culturally sensitive and available in local languages and that they reduce risky behaviour, encourage responsible sexual behaviour, reduce harm related to drug use and expand access to male and female condoms, clean injecting equipment, safe blood supplies, treatment of sexually transmitted infections and voluntary counselling and testing.

69. The UNAIDS communication framework for HIV/AIDS has been applied at the country level in developing national communication programming strategies. UNAIDS is providing technical support to United Nations theme groups and national AIDS programmes around the world.

70. UNAIDS has also co-hosted, with UNFPA and WHO, an international consultation on social marketing and communication, which brought together communication and social marketing experts to discuss strategies to bridge the condom gap internationally. The inter-agency task teams set up by UNAIDS on young people and mother-to-child transmission are also developing communication and advocacy strategies.

VII. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

71. In its support of the implementation of resolution 51/172 and the recommendations of the 2002 Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Communication for Development Group, located in the Extension, Education and Communication Service, has focused its attention on the following priority areas:

(a) Identification and appraisal of communication needs in support of agricultural and rural development;

(b) Application of appropriate communication policies, strategies, approaches, media and messages;

(c) Development and implementation of communication training activities to build national capacity;

(d) Effective use of communication methodologies and technologies with rural people.

72. For years, FAO has been promoting and advocating the role of communication in sustainable development. More recently, the organization has given special attention to the emergence of newer communication approaches, media and tools. The FAO Communication for Development Group carries out both normative and field activities, ranging from formulation of methodologies, policies and strategies to project design, implementation and evaluation. Emphasis is placed on giving technical advice to Governments on communication as part of development policy and on the establishment of national communication systems that can support development initiatives. Training in communication skills and methodologies is equally important in order to identify successful and cost-effective communication approaches for specific audiences and messages.

Capacity-building in communication for development

73. A critical factor in meeting the challenge of ensuring food security in developing countries is human resource development through knowledge-building and information-sharing. FAO has provided training to rural radio broadcasters in Mali, Burkina Faso and other francophone African countries to prepare programmes that reflect the information needs of rural audiences.

74. FAO has experience and expertise to support capacity-building interventions that include:

(a) Training rural radio broadcasters. FAO is collaborating with the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, which has a global network, to train broadcasters on reporting techniques for agricultural and food security issues;

(b) Support in the design and implementation of national communication policies in various African countries (e.g., Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau). FAO has worked with national policy makers from over 20 African countries to help develop national communication policies and action plans.

Rural radio

75. Significant emphasis continues to be placed on the use of rural radio, which is one of the most widespread communication tools in developing countries. In this context, FAO hosted two important events, which brought together radio professionals from the North and South to share ideas and experiences on knowledge and information dissemination for promoting rural and agricultural development: an international workshop on farm radio broadcasting, on the theme "Information and communication technologies servicing rural radio: new contents, new partnerships", and a workshop on rural radio and food security.

Information and communication technologies

76. Studies were conducted by FAO to identify innovative communication strategies, including the assessment of the role of new ICT in rural development. The potential role of the new ICT for improving agricultural productivity and food security was piloted and successfully implemented in a number of applications, such as the Virtual Extension and Research Communication Network (VERCON), and the Farmer Information Network.

77. VERCON aims at improving linkages between and within agricultural research and extension institutions by allowing them to develop, share, store and retrieve information. A VERCON project was implemented by the Egyptian Government with support from the FAO technical cooperation programme. As a result, plans are now under way for replicating the initiative to cover all the governorates in the country. VERCON proposals are currently being developed also for Bhutan, Uganda and India.

78. The Farmer Information Network application is a network of rural people using communication tools and processes to facilitate the generating, gathering and exchange of knowledge and information among themselves and with the intermediary organizations that work with them. FAO is helping to close the digital divide in rural areas by connecting community radio stations to the Internet and is training broadcasters to collect and adapt information for improved agriculture and food security. In addition, FAO is working with member countries and other United Nations agencies to formulate national communication policies that integrate Internet information technologies and conventional media, such as rural radio. Common approaches on the integrated use of media and ICT have been developed with partner organizations such as UNESCO for applications that address the digital divide in some of the poorest communities of the developing world. The Radio Kothmale model of UNESCO and the FAO proposal on the theme "Relier la radio rurale à l'Internet", while having different objectives, adopt the same type of principle and can provide potential areas of collaboration between the two agencies.

Field support for the fight against HIV/AIDS

79. HIV/AIDS has a substantial economic and social impact on rural families and households. The disease is killing people in their most productive years, decimating the workforce and impoverishing households. FAO now regards the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a legitimate agricultural and food security topic and, therefore, an integral part of its activities. FAO and UNFPA have ongoing projects in Cameroon and Mali related to the promotion of reproductive health and gender equity. In Cameroon, the project is aimed at reaching women and youth to increase their access to health services. In Mali, the project objective is to change the attitude and behaviour of men vis-à-vis women's rights to reproductive health and socio-economic responsibilities in the society.

VIII. United Nations Development Programme

80. The United Nations Development Programme adopted ICT for development as one of its six main focus areas in 2000, in the belief that by making ICT an integral part of development cooperation and solutions, developing countries and their

partners can work to address the current economic, social and digital divides in more innovative and effective ways.

81. The UNDP approach is inclusive and holistic, with a view to enhancing broad national ownership, effectiveness and sustainability of the strategies and initiatives. UNDP is currently providing programme and policy support in close to 60 countries through its thematic ICT for Development Trust Fund, which has been operational since early 2002. It currently provides support for programmes in 15 of these countries, with support upcoming for another 16, in keeping with its streamlined strategic focus and with a view to encouraging resource mobilization and initiatives that are catalytic in nature. Policy-strategy innovation is evident in countries such as Mozambique where UNDP support in prioritizing, costing and adopting an integrated approach has enhanced quick resource mobilization and implementation potential.

82. Schools, particularly in rural areas, are viewed as community hubs for lifelong e-learning and extension of ICT access and ICT services to communities at large. First in Malaysia, and later in Bolivia, an innovative partnership for "e-learning for life" has been launched with the Coca-Cola Foundation. In late October, in partnership with the Government of China (Ministry of Education) and the Department for International Development, a major initiative committing $9.4 million to support distance education and teacher training was launched in western China. UNDP has also partnered with CISCO Systems to support networking academies in the least developed countries of Africa, Asia and the Arab States. In 2002, ICT United Nations Volunteers were placed in academies in approximately 20 developing countries, mostly least developed countries, under the United Nations Information Technology Service umbrella.

83. In Asia, the UNDP regional ICT programme has launched a major analytical and policy review with the aim of determining good practices and policy lessons that can be drawn from attempts to deploy ICT to address the priorities of the Millennium Development Goals. A similar initiative is under development for a set of countries in Africa. At the country level, development goals and the Millennium Development Goals in relation to which ICT can have more of an impact are being identified as priorities that can be addressed through national e-strategies and programmes.

84. UNDP has also focused on assisting countries in special circumstances and post-conflict situations where ICT is a critical enabler for facilitating reconstruction, aid coordination and development activities in the country and strengthening human capacities in the civil service and for public service delivery. In Afghanistan, UNDP has also begun work in supporting ICT capacity development through establishment of a CISCO Networking Academy Program at Kabul University, the provision of ICT technical workshops and the establishment of ICT training centres at central and provincial levels for training of users.

IX. United Nations Environment Programme

85. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is playing, and will continue to play, an increasingly collaborative role with sister United Nations agencies in the field of communications for development. The UNEP motto is "Environment for development". Maintaining a high profile for environmental

issues among the international community, the private sector and civil society is a UNEP priority. A dynamic communications strategy is vital for achieving this goal.

86. The UNEP communications strategy is guided by its Division of Communications and Public Information. The role of the Division in complementing and adding value to the organization's substantive programme of work encompasses publications, awards and special events, such as World Environment Day, supported by proactive media liaison, using such tools as press releases, video news releases, public service announcements and strategically placed op-ed articles.

Our Planet

87. A UNEP quarterly magazine, *Our Planet*, carries authoritative articles by leading figures. For example, editions in the reporting period have included articles by Børge Brende, Norway's Environment Minister and immediate past Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development; Anwarul Chowdhury, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; Richard G. Lugar, Chairman of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Nelson Mandela; and Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan.

Global Environment Outlook

88. The UNEP flagship publication *Global Environment Outlook* is the most authoritative reference work of the United Nations system on the current state of the global environment and its relationship to sustainable development. It draws extensively on the work of other United Nations bodies, as well as that of collaborating centres, scientists and policy makers around the globe, and thus helps promote the work of the United Nations system on development issues. The *Global Environment Outlook Yearbook 2003* was published in March 2004, and its contents were widely reported in the media, especially with regard to the emerging challenges of nitrogen overload and declining fisheries. UNEP published several other reports during the reporting period, all of which were accompanied by media releases and achieved widespread media coverage.

Raising environmental awareness

89. UNEP continues to set a high standard for media visibility and the environmental issues that drive its programme. UNEP media releases receive widespread worldwide coverage and help generate substantial interest in the mainstream media on environmental issues. UNEP is also a partner in the editorially independent Television Trust for the Environment, whose regular "Earth report" bulletins on environment and development are broadcast on *BBC World* television to millions of people worldwide.

90. The Division of Communications and Public Information continues to forge a growing range of partnerships to promote communication for development through audio-visual media. *Ocean Wonderland*, the world's first IMAX film on the underwater marine environment, grossed $6 million in the first 10 months after being released in February 2003.

91. Another example of the UNEP strategy of seeking innovative corporate partnerships to reach new audiences with essential environment and development

messages is the film *Critical Assignment*, which is an action-based feature film with an environmental message.

Focus on Your World

92. UNEP has a growing library of powerful photographs on the theme of environment and development as a result of its regular "Focus on Your World" photographic competitions, the first of which was launched in 1999. The fourth "Focus on Your World" competition was launched on World Environment Day 2004 (5 June), in Barcelona, Spain, along with simultaneous launches in more than 20 cities worldwide.

Internet

93. Over the past year, UNEP has energetically overhauled its web service, upgrading content and providing a service in French as well as English to enhance communication with Governments, scientists, businesses, youth and children and the general public.

94. The introduction in July 2003 of a mirror site based in Europe increased speed of access by 400 per cent. The site now averages over 6 million hits a month, an increase of approximately 50 per cent over the year. All UNEP divisions and units, increasingly coordinated by the Division of Communications and Public Information, are now exploiting the Internet to communicate environment and development issues to a wider audience.

World Environment Day and other United Nations observances

95. UNEP plays an active lead and/or supportive role in communicating information about United Nations commemorative years and days. The United Nations system flagship environmental event is World Environment Day, celebrated each year on 5 June. Led by UNEP, World Environment Day prompts street rallies, green concerts, essay and poster competitions in schools and clean-up campaigns around the globe.

96. World Environment Day 2004 saw the establishment of a new trend with the launch, in Barcelona and San Francisco, of World Environment Day 2005. San Francisco, the host city, has already embarked on an extensive programme of fund-raising and awareness-raising on the theme "Green cities".

Environmental awards

97. The main annual award of UNEP, the UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize, continues to generate widespread worldwide attention. The 2003 Prize was presented to joint winners, Xie Zhenhua, Director of China's State Environmental Protection Administration, and Brazilian environmental campaigner Dener Giovanini, in November 2003.

98. The same year also witnessed the unveiling of a new UNEP annual international environment award, "Champions of the earth". The award will be presented to six outstanding environmental achievers and leaders — one from each region of the world — late in 2004.

Support for Africa

99. UNEP has provided substantive and communications support to the environment initiative of NEPAD. The NEPAD environment initiative is a coherent action plan to address the region's environmental challenges within the framework of combating poverty and promoting socio-economic development.

Capacity-building for the media

100. To enhance the quality and quantity of media coverage on environment and development, UNEP conducts capacity-building exercises for journalists from the developing world and countries with economies in transition. In December 2003, in Addis Ababa, a workshop was held simultaneously with the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water for 30 journalists from 19 countries in Africa on environmental reporting. Similar capacity-building workshops for journalists were conducted in other regions.

Engaging civil society

101. Recent years have seen an acceleration of consultations and collaborative thinking on how UNEP can work more closely with civil society to address the environmental and sustainable development challenges of the twenty-first century. The UNEP strategy to enhance civil society engagement in its work is based on three interdependent pillars: information exchange, engagement at the programmatic level and engagement at the policy level.

102. The newly established UNEP Stakeholder and Major Group Branch is broadening the range of actors engaging with UNEP at the policy development level to include all the major groups defined in Agenda 21.

Women and environment

103. UNEP worked in 2003 and 2004 to enhance the involvement of women in sustainable development through a policy handbook and targeted workshops. Empowering women by providing access to, and control of, vital natural resources is a key issue for poverty eradication and sustainable development. Two workshops, held in June and July 2003 in Côte d'Ivoire and Chad, attracted more than 150 participants each to discuss the role of women in managing biodiversity as a means of poverty reduction. May 2004 saw the launch of a new UNEP publication, *Women and the Environment*, at the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The book calls for greater recognition of the role of women in conservation and poverty eradication.

Clean Up the World Campaign

104. The reporting period also saw the strengthening of the UNEP relationship with the Clean Up the World Campaign, one of its most striking civil society success stories. Initiated in 1993 with UNEP seed money and the mission to promote and facilitate positive environmental action on a global scale, the Campaign has grown to become one of the largest community-based environmental projects in the world, inspiring an estimated 40 million participants from more than 100 countries each year to clean up and conserve their local environment.

Children and youth

105. Another major group with which UNEP has a long-standing relationship is children and youth. The new UNEP Tunza children and youth strategy, launched in 2003 and unanimously approved by the UNEP Governing Council, aims to increase UNEP activities to give this major consumer group — whose lifestyle decisions will influence sustainable development for years to come — a voice in policy-making and the tools to help themselves and their communities improve the global environment.

Sport and environment

106. UNEP has been working in the field of sport and environment since 1994, when it signed a cooperative agreement with the International Olympic Committee. In that same year, the Committee made the environment the third pillar of olympism, alongside sport and culture. Ever since, environmental sustainability has been gaining importance as a central part of any country's bid to host Olympic events. UNEP is also working with other United Nations agencies in the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace.

107. One of the major partners of UNEP in promoting environment-friendly sports is the Japan-based Global Sports Alliance, which co-sponsors the Global Forum for Sport and Environment. At the second Global Forum for Sport and Environment, held in Tokyo, in November 2003, more than 200 participants, including athletes, sports federations, sports goods manufacturers and NGOs, addressed environmental sustainability questions.

X. Conclusions and recommendations

108. The conclusions and recommendations are as follows:

(a) **Communication for development is instrumental in the success of any endeavour to achieve human development and, consequently, greater integration in the economic and social planning process is called for;**

(b) **This, in turn, calls for an increased resources redirected towards more effective communication programmes, including increased investment in capacity-building, training and research at the country level;**

(c) **The United Nations system, working through a number of mechanisms, such as communication for development round tables, has achieved a certain degree of cohesion in its approach and action in this field. This success calls for enhanced synergy among all partners, at both the international and country levels, including governments, NGOs, donors, the private sector and community leaders;**

(d) **Information and communication technologies have become an integral part of the development process. Developing countries and their partners should intensify efforts to address the current digital divide in a more innovative and effective way, based on the enhancement of national ownership and the effectiveness and sustainability of the related initiatives and strategies.**

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Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

During the short period of time since the adoption by the General Assembly on 23 December 2003 of its resolution 58/201 endorsing the outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, major attention has been given by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to mobilizing awareness at the national, regional and international levels of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and to the importance of its full and effective implementation.

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The organizations of the United Nations system made concerted efforts to operationalize coordination and monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (A/CONF.202/3, annex I). One of the main results in this regard was the preparation of the road map towards the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, which would provide guidance to organizations within the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations in undertaking necessary actions in a focused and well-coordinated manner. The present report highlights initial activities undertaken by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

I. Introduction

1. Landlocked developing countries are generally among the poorest of the developing countries, with the weakest growth rates and records of social development. The international community has recognized that the lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets are the primary causes of those countries' relative poverty. Their seaborne trade unavoidably depends on transit through other countries and on their transit policies, enterprises and facilities. Additional border crossings and long distances from major markets substantially increase the total expenses for transport services, eroding the competitive edge of landlocked developing countries. Such a disadvantaged situation leads to the marginalization of landlocked developing countries with respect to international trade and the world economy. Establishment of efficient transit transport systems will depend on cooperative arrangements between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours. In many cases their transit neighbours, especially the least developed coastal countries, are of broadly similar economic structure and beset by scarcities of resources. Many are typically not in a position to offer transport systems of high technical and administrative standards to which their landlocked neighbours might link themselves.

2. In order to place appropriate emphasis on the persistent problems faced by landlocked developing countries, and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/242 of 20 December 2002, the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation was held in August 2003 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. It was the first high-level global event of the United Nations to address the special needs and problems of landlocked developing countries in order to integrate them effectively into the world economy by establishing efficient transit transport systems in both landlocked and transit developing countries. The overarching goal of the Almaty Programme of Action[1] is to forge partnerships to overcome the special problems of landlocked developing countries caused by their lack of territorial access to the sea and their remoteness and isolation from world markets. The Programme of Action, which identifies specific actions in five priority areas, namely fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, international support measures, and implementation and review, seeks to establish efficient transport systems, recognizing the link between transport and international trade as well as economic growth. The Programme of Action aims to (a) secure access to and from the sea by all means of transport according to applicable rules of international law; (b) reduce costs and improve services so as to increase the competitiveness of their exports; (c) reduce the delivered costs of imports; (d) address problems of delays and uncertainties in trade routes; (e) develop adequate national networks; (f) reduce loss, damage and deterioration en route; (g) open the way for export expansion; and (h) improve safety of road transport and security of people along the corridors.

3. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 58/201 the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session an item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing

[1] A/CONF.202/3, annex I.

countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation".

4. In paragraph 6 of the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the progress made in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. The present report focuses on initiatives undertaken by the organizations within the United Nations system and by other relevant international and regional organizations. At this early stage, major attention is being paid by the organizations of the United Nations system to mobilizing awareness at the national, regional and international levels of the Programme of Action and of the importance of its full and effective implementation. Those organizations have made concerted efforts to operationalize coordination and monitoring mechanisms for the Programme of Action and to define a road map for its effective implementation.

II. System-wide activities for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action

5. The road map for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action was prepared by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in close consultation with organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations. An inter-agency meeting, convened on 4 February 2004, endorsed the road map for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. The inter-agency meeting emphasized that one of the main reasons for the success in the process leading to Almaty was its broad-based participatory approach involving a variety of United Nations agencies and international and regional and subregional organizations specialized in different aspects of transit transport cooperation. The meeting agreed that such a participatory approach should also be the main organizational approach for follow-up activities related to the Almaty conference. In this regard, the road map proposed that a system of focal points established during the preparations leading to Almaty should be used as a main mechanism for inter-agency cooperation and coordination in implementing the Programme of Action. In addition, relevant non-governmental organizations, private sector and professional organizations would be broadly involved in the process.

6. The road map outlines, for organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant international and regional organizations, potential strategies for action that are designed to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. The road map is a clear and practical document that would assist member countries, regional commissions, international, regional organizations and financial institutions to progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a focused and well-coordinated manner, with a view to achieving tangible results.

7. The immediate actions identified in the road map are as follows:

(a) Identification of major missing links in Africa, Asia and Latin America in consultation with the relevant regional commissions and other subregional, regional and international organizations;

(b) Solicitation of funds to complete those missing links in close cooperation with the relevant regional commissions and other regional and subregional integration organizations;

(c) Identification of subregional priority projects on the development of infrastructure and trade facilitation measures and solicitation of funds for their implementation;

(d) Encouragement of landlocked and transit developing countries, where necessary, in the establishment of national trade facilitation boards, involving all stakeholders, with a view to channelling international support in the area of trade facilitation;

(e) Preparation of guidelines for the establishment of national trade facilitation boards;

(f) Promotion of accession to the international conventions in the area of transport and transit trade.

8. Initial activities undertaken by various organizations within the United Nations system are described below.

9. In its paragraphs 42, 44, 47 and 51 the Almaty Programme of Action provided a clear mandate to the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations. The regional commissions are expected to play a major role in the implementation of the Programme of Action as efficient transit transport systems should be established at the regional and subregional levels. The interests and concerns of landlocked developing countries are being taken into careful consideration in the implementation of the trans-African highways, the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway Network and international North-South corridor projects, as well as the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA) and the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia. Particular attention is being paid to constructing the "missing links" in the regional and subregional networks. The subregional and regional infrastructure development plans should give high priority to transit corridors linking landlocked developing countries to the transport network in transit developing countries, as well as to the regional network. Furthermore, railways have an important role to play in the transit transport corridor systems linking ocean ports with landlocked developing countries.

10. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is playing a major role in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action through the Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme, an Africa-based, Africa-owned partnership programme launched in 1987 as a joint initiative between the World Bank and the Commission to improve transport sector performance through policy reforms and institutional changes. The Transport Policy Programme has prepared a long-term development plan (2007 target date) including clearly defined benchmarks, measurable indicators of achievement and assigned tasks. An action plan was also adopted during the Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme meeting organized in Nairobi in February 2004, the purpose of which was to increase

ownership of Regional Economic Communities and to meet their requirement in implementing the 2004 work programme.

11. In October 2003, a total of 4.6 million United States dollars ($) was mobilized to fund Transport Policy Programme activities, out of which $895,000 has been distributed to Regional Economic Communities. In all the Regional Economic Communities for which funds have been allocated, transit transport facilitation accounts for a substantial part of the planned activities. Examples of transit transport facilitation activities promoted by the Transport Policy Programme include establishing observatories of abnormal practices along transit corridors such as the northern corridor, the Dar es Salaam-Lusaka corridor, the Douala-Ndjamena-Bangui corridor and the Lagos-Abidjan corridor; port security audits in Mombasa, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam; port facilitation in Douala, Cameroon; road safety along the Dar es Salaam-Lusaka corridor; legislation review for selected corridors; axle-load control implementation in the north-south corridor (Zambia-Democratic Republic of the Congo-Durban, South Africa, passing through Beit Bridge); harmonization of transit transport documents (Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC); Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); and West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)); and capacity-building for transport planning specialists in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community.

12. As part of its activities to facilitate transit transport in Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa also organized, from 27 to 29 October 2003, an ad hoc expert group meeting on multimodal transport development in Africa. The objective of the meeting was to assist African countries in improving the quality and reducing the costs associated with international transport. The Commission also used the meeting as a platform to sensitize African countries on the Almaty Programme of Action. In this regard, a presentation of the Programme of Action by the Commission was an item on the agenda of the meeting, and copies were distributed to participants in the meeting.

13. Transport development is one of the priority areas in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The Economic Commission for Africa highlighted the need for regional and subregional integration within a continental framework. The Commission is working in partnership with the African Development Bank and the African Union. The Commission has collaborated with the African Development Bank in preparing the short-term and the medium- to long-term action plans for the NEPAD infrastructure programme, in which transport facilitation is an important component.

14. Giving high priority to transit corridors, the five regional commissions of the United Nations, with funding from the United Nations development account, are implementing a joint project entitled "Capacity-building in developing interregional land and land-cum-sea transport linkages" during the period 2003-2006. An important component of the project, implemented by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), focuses on transport linkages between Europe and Asia. The first phase of the project will identify and assess the main transport linkages of international importance spanning the Europe-Asia land bridge, while the second phase will look specifically at transport facilitation issues in respect of the identified

linkages. Among the 18 participating countries, 10 are landlocked countries, namely Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The project is being implemented in close cooperation with the landlocked and transit countries as well as with subregional and international organizations.

15. The Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network has been recognized as the major achievement occurring after the Almaty conference. On 23 April 2004, in Shanghai, China, 26 countries signed this breakthrough Agreement, which will enter into force upon ratification by eight countries. The Agreement, the first of its kind to be developed under the auspices of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, establishes the alignment, standards and signage for the 140,000 kilometres (km) of highways extending to the 32 countries constituting the Asian Highway network. Significantly, the Agreement will provide a defined network of highways that provides access to and through all landlocked countries of the region. Furthermore, the Agreement will ensure that future development of the network can be undertaken in a regionally coordinated manner. The positive impact of the Asian Highway could be compared to the boost to regional economic cooperation and trade that occurred in Europe after 1975, when the Economic Commission for Europe engineered a similar arrangement.

16. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is undertaking a study to identify investment needs and development priorities for the Asian Highway network and related intermodal connections and freight terminals. The study, which seeks to promote the development and upgrading of the highway network, focuses on identifying missing links and substandard sections in regional and subregional transport networks. For example, in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank, the secretariat is working with China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation to facilitate the alignment and development of Asian Highway route AH4 from the Russian Federation through landlocked Mongolia to China.

17. As the railways have an important role to play in linking ocean ports with landlocked developing countries the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific secretariat has also progressed in the formulation of the Trans-Asian Railway Network, with the publication of a new Trans-Asian Railway map. The Commission has proposed that a regional agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network be developed, and resources have been secured for the work to begin. The Commission is also promoting the operationalization of the Trans-Asian Railway northern corridor through a series of demonstration runs of container block trains between the port Tianjin, China, and Ulaanbaatar; between the port of Lianyungang, China, and Almaty, Kazakhstan; and between Brest, Belarus, and Ulaanbaatar. Further runs are currently being planned.

18. An integrated approach in addressing trade and transport facilitation issues was recommended by the ESCAP Committee on Managing Globalization at its first session from 19 to 21 November 2003. The Committee encouraged the establishment of national trade and transport facilitation committees.

19. A project that would assist countries in implementing the recommendations of the Almaty Programme of Action, including the application of information and communication technology in trade and transport facilitation, has been jointly developed by the Transport and Tourism Division, the Trade and Investment

Division and the Information, Communication and Space Technology Division of the Commission.

20. Several Greater Mekong subregion transport projects such as the Thailand–Lao People's Democratic Republic–Viet Nam east-west transport corridor project and the China–Thailand via the Lao People's Democratic Republic road improvement project are also being implemented.

21. Over the years, the Economic Commission for Europe has developed a set of international regulations on transport, which establish coherent infrastructure networks, simplify border crossings and provide international safety and environmental standards for transport. The major parts of this set of transport regulations are agreements and conventions, which are legally binding for the countries that become parties to them. The implementation of those international instruments by the ECE member countries has greatly contributed to developing international transport and trade in the ECE region and, thereby, to fostering the growth and integration of European countries, including countries with economies in transition. In addition to its normative work, the Commission also provides technical assistance.

22. The Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific continue to support the Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing Facilitation within the framework of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

23. At the request of the Government of Chile, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean hosted the fifth ministerial meeting of the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America in December 2003. Several of the axes of the Initiative are intended to facilitate movement between points in Bolivia and Paraguay with ports served by ocean-going vessels.

24. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) strategy for implementing the Almaty Programme of Action includes assistance for the development of adequate national transport networks and efficient transit systems and the promotion of regional trade expansion and integration. The UNCTAD secretariat undertakes technical assistance activities of particular interest to the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, including tools for assessing needs and priorities in trade facilitation in landlocked developing countries, the development of transport and trade facilitation platforms, and capacity-building in trade and transport facilitation for landlocked and transit developing countries. In particular, three UNCTAD current technical assistance projects are of significant impact in landlocked developing countries: (a) a project aimed at providing least developed countries with guidelines and analytical tools to assess their needs and priorities in the area of trade and transport facilitation; (b) a project aimed at assisting developing countries in implementing specific trade facilitation institutional development mechanisms; and (c) an interregional development account-funded project, to be executed during the period 2004-2007, which is aimed at providing landlocked and transit developing countries with sustainable capacity to plan and implement regional trade and transport facilitation initiatives. Three pilot projects to design and implement regional solutions will be carried out in selected transport corridors in landlocked and transit developing countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

25. Furthermore, UNCTAD is currently undertaking a number of operational technical assistance projects at the level of both individual countries and subregions that have important transit elements. Thus, activities have commenced in Afghanistan towards implementation with the United Nations Office for Project Services of a project, funded under a World Bank loan, on emergency customs modernization and trade facilitation. Through its Automated Systems for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) programme, UNCTAD presently undertakes a number of projects that include customs transit matters in landlocked developing countries. Beneficiary countries include Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. A joint regional project executed with the Economic Cooperation Organization deals, inter alia, with regional solutions to transit transport problems. Specifically, UNCTAD continues to support the tripartite negotiations between China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation on a transit traffic framework agreement.

26. UNCTAD is planning to hold an expert meeting on the design and implementation of transit transport arrangements in Geneva in November 2004 to discuss the best available solutions to improve transit transport and to review institutional arrangements, including multimodal transport and logistic services, the use of management information systems along supply chains and the conditions required for successful, cost-effective transit arrangements in landlocked and transit developing countries.

27. The UNCTAD secretariat continues to undertake analytical work on establishing efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries. In particular, UNCTAD has initiated analytical work through a proposed pilot project for landlocked countries in West Africa. The purpose of the pilot project is (a) to identify the specific problems that hinder its transit transport and the implementation of existing regional agreements; (b) to suggest options for more efficient transit transport systems in the region; (c) to propose maintenance activities in the administration and regulation of existing transit traffic corridors; and (d) to help to prepare for suitable forms of dissemination of the project's findings and outcome.

28. The World Bank is engaged in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in a number of ways. At the global level, the Bank is working with the World Customs Organization to improve and to reform custom procedures that hinder efficient movement of traffic. For that, the bank prepared a customs modernization handbook, which includes a specific chapter on transit and the special case of landlocked countries.

29. At the country level, the World Bank is implementing a number of projects. In particular, in Kenya, the Northern Corridor Transport Improvement Project, now at the final appraisal stage, aims at facilitating international transport operation on the Kenyan section of the corridor, which provides access to Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The project includes infrastructure rehabilitation and support for the streamlining of transit procedures and transport regulations as well as a component to address transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) along the corridor. Secondly, in West Africa, the Bank is working closely with the Economic Community of West African States and the West African Economic and Monetary Union in preparing a regional West Africa transport project, which

explicitly refers to the Almaty Programme of Actions in its design. The project may involve up to 15 countries at its final stage, all members of ECOWAS, to ensure improvement of road conditions, facilitation of border-crossing operations and implementation of interregional transit agreements. The project will address infrastructure rehabilitation and development, issues of transit regulations, implementation of existing agreements and broader application of information technology in transport operations. Thirdly, the Bank is cooperating with UNCTAD in designing and implementing the Emergency Customs Modernization and Trade Facilitation Project in Afghanistan, approved by the Bank in December 2003.

30. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is working closely with the Governments of Central Asian countries to improve trade efficiency by improving border control and management. The project is funded by the European Commission and is emphasizing interregional cooperation. UNDP started the second phase of the Silk Road project. UNDP is also working closely with the Asian Development Bank in improving the transport systems between China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation as well as energy and transit trade in the region. The Tumen River project, involving China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea is considered to be one of the most successful projects in the area. UNDP also provides assistance to the Mekong River initiative.

31. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States has undertaken concrete steps to ensure the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. The Office holds frequent consultations with landlocked and transit developing countries, private sector, multilateral organizations and the donor community on how best to proceed with the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Office pays particular attention to raising international awareness of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action at the international and regional levels.

32. In particular, the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States conducted a large number of consultations with organizations within the United Nations system and with other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, including the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Economic Community of West African States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Economic Cooperation Organization. He also highlighted the importance of the issue at the sixtieth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and during his bilateral visits to Benin and Senegal, which are the major transit countries in West Africa. The Office also convened an inter-agency meeting to consult on how best to operationalize the coordination, monitoring and reporting mechanism provided in the Almaty Programme of Action and enhance its cooperation with organizations in the field in landlocked and transit developing countries. The preparation of the road map for the implementation of the Programme of Action was an important effort towards a consolidated and coherent approach by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant international and regional organizations. The Office continues its advocacy work related to landlocked developing countries.

33. Pursuant to paragraph 37 of the Almaty Programme of Action, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States is promoting the accession by landlocked and transit developing countries to the international conventions relevant to the transit trade, as those instruments are the main means through which streamlining, simplification and standardization as well as transparency of rules and procedures can be achieved. The effort will contribute tremendously to the reduction of transit costs. In this context, the Office is undertaking preparations in close cooperation with the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs and the Economic Commission for Europe, for the 2004 treaty event to promote the accession to the selected conventions in the area of transit trade and transport during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The event will include a number of preparatory events and training programmes, including briefings for the Member States, a seminar on the conventions, information provided on a web site and preparation of an Issues note explaining the benefits that Member States would derive from joining these important conventions deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. On 8 July 2004, a seminar on transit transport conventions applicable to the transit transport was convened at United Nations Headquarters to familiarize the Member States, especially landlocked and transit developing countries, with the key provisions and benefits to be derived from the conventions as well as with procedures and requirements related to the treaty action. The relevant documents, including the Issues note on the selected international conventions applicable to transit transport, electronic compilation of the selected 17 international conventions and the treaty handbook are also posted on the web sites of the Office of the High Representative, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs to facilitate Member States' consideration of membership in these important multilateral conventions.

34. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States is also assisting with preparations, in cooperation with the Government of Kazakhstan, the host country of the International Ministerial Conference, for a meeting entitled "Role of regional and subregional organizations for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action". The meeting will bring together senior officials from regional and subregional organizations that are playing a major role in expanding regional trade and developing transit transport cooperation. The purpose of the meeting is to prepare a regional and subregional framework for cooperation and a compendium of projects and deliverables for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. The compendium will be used for advocacy and fund-raising purposes.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

35. The Almaty Programme of Action established close linkages between efficient transit transport systems and the development of landlocked developing countries. The Programme of Action is a well-focused and balanced document containing specific actions to tackle the most important development challenges faced by the landlocked countries through establishing efficient transit systems in both landlocked and transit developing countries. The high cost of international trade represents a serious constraint to the trade and

economic development of landlocked developing countries. Measures to deal with the transit problems of such countries have to address a broad range of factors, such as greater market access for the goods originating in landlocked developing countries, imbalance of trade, inadequate infrastructure, inefficient transport organization, poor utilization of assets and weak managerial, procedural, regulatory and institutional systems.

36. Since landlocked developing countries depend on their transit neighbours for access to and from the sea, the establishment of efficient transit systems requires closer and more effective cooperation and collaboration between those countries and their transit neighbours. In this context, regional economic groupings and transit agreements as well as bilateral agreements should play a critical role in promoting transit transport cooperation.

37. Transit policy reforms aimed at enhancing the efficiency of transit operations and reducing transport costs, including the commercialization and liberalization of transport services as well as efforts to improve institutional, procedural, regulatory, and managerial systems, should be further encouraged. In particular, landlocked and transit developing countries should review such issues as foreign exchange regulation, price control or quota systems to support indigenous service providers and restrictions on the use of certain modes of transport.

38. Competition between different modes of transport and between different transit corridors should be further encouraged. Landlocked and transit developing countries should undertake specific measures to use all modes of transport in transit services and establish alternate transit corridors to boost the competition.

39. While recognizing that the appropriate sectoral distribution of investment within a developing country must depend on an overall assessment of the country's priorities, a strong case can be made in respect of landlocked developing countries for giving high priority to financial and technical assistance for the improvement of the transport infrastructure as well as to the management and maintenance of existing facilities. Owing to the relative poverty and related development handicaps characteristic of landlocked developing countries, it is important that financial assistance to those countries be extended under the most generous terms possible.

40. The international community should provide greater market access for goods originating in landlocked developing countries, taking into consideration the high transport costs associated with their remoteness from major world markets, their lack of access to the sea and their dependence on a very limited number of commodities.

41. National ownership and leadership are critical for the effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in order to develop physical infrastructure and improve operational efficiency of the use of existing facilities. Landlocked and transit developing countries should consider giving priority to the establishment of efficient transit transport systems in their development planning and budget allocations as well as in their dialogue with development partners. In this regard, landlocked and transit developing countries should establish, where necessary, a national transport and trade

facilitation board to bring together major stakeholders involved in international trade transactions, including government agencies, service providers, customs, border crossings, banks, insurance, freight forwarders and traders, in order to agree on national policy and operational measures aimed at establishing efficient transit systems.

42. **The organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations should provide greater financial and technical assistance to landlocked and transit developing countries. There is a need for concerted and well-coordinated assistance. The organizations of the United Nations system should take necessary action to pool together their expertise and resources to better address the issue. In this regard, measures identified by the road map for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action should be vigorously pursued.**

43. **Donor countries and international financial and development institutions are invited to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established to facilitate the implementation of and follow-up to the Almaty ministerial conference.**

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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

During the reporting period, from July 2003 to June 2004, the Centre operated under enormous uncertainty owing to a lack of sufficient voluntary contributions to support its activities. Within its limited financial resources, the Centre continued to implement its programme of work in the four priority areas endorsed in 1999 by the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States: support for peace processes and peace initiatives in Africa; practical disarmament and arms control; information, research and publication; and advocacy and resource mobilization.

The Centre launched, in October 2003, a three-year project, entitled "Small arms transparency and control regime in Africa", with the objective of assisting Member States of the African region to implement, on a voluntary basis, the provisions relating to transparency in the flows of small arms and light weapons, as contained in the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and in the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. It also expanded its sensitization and advocacy campaign against the misuse of small arms and light weapons and

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non-violence through the publication and dissemination of the compact disc, entitled "Africa ... Disarm!". In collaboration with the Commission of the African Union, the Centre continued to implement its civil-military relations programme and organized, within this framework, a pilot training workshop for the member States of the Economic Community of West African States, which focused on the role of the parliamentary defence committees in military matters.

The Centre promoted cooperation with the Commission of the African Union and with other subregional organizations including the Economic Community of West African States, the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of Central African States. Cooperation and partnership were also extended to relevant civil society organizations and research institutions. To maximize synergies, working relationships were strengthened with relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, such as the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund, in areas of common interest.

The Centre was established to function on the basis of existing resources and on voluntary contributions that Member States and other institutions may make. Unfortunately, such contributions were drastically reduced during the reporting period. As at 30 June 2004, the balance remaining in the Trust Fund for the Centre to cover its operating costs amounts to only US$ 2,608. If the financial situation of the Centre does not improve significantly in the coming months, it will not be able to carry out its programme of activities in fulfilment of its mandate, and the temporary suspension or relocation of its operations in Lomé would have to be considered. This would seriously affect the revitalization process of the Centre, as called for by General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/61 of 8 December 2003, by which the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary support to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for better achievements and results, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution. The report covers the period from July 2003 to June 2004. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the Centre for the biennium 2002-2003 is contained in annex I. Annex II to the report contains an outline of the planned activities of the Centre for which funding is invited from interested donor countries and organizations.

II. Functioning of the Centre

2. The Centre was established in 1986 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/151 G of 16 December 1985. Its headquarters is located in Lomé. The Centre functions within the framework of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, which ensures its supervision and acts as the focal point for coordinating the input of the pertinent organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system.

3. During the reporting period, the Centre operated under enormous uncertainty owing to a drastic decline in voluntary contributions in support of its activities. Within its limited financial resources, the Centre continued to implement its programme of work, which was endorsed in 1999 by the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, in the following main areas: support for peace processes and peace initiatives in Africa; practical disarmament and arms control; information, research and publication; and advocacy and resource mobilization.

III. Objectives and activities of the Centre

4. According to its mandate, as contained in General Assembly resolution 40/151 G, the Centre will provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of Member States in the African region towards the realization of measures of peace, arms limitation and disarmament in the region, in cooperation with the African Union, and will coordinate the implementation of regional activities in Africa under the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme.

5. During the period under review, the Centre carried out a number of activities in the above-mentioned four areas.

A. Support for peace processes and peace initiatives in Africa

6. Although not directly involved as a player in the peace processes established in several parts of Africa, the Centre provided substantive support and technical advice to a number of ongoing peace initiatives, in particular in disarmament and security sector reforms. In this context, it maintained contacts and consultations with the

Executive Secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, and hosted a number of briefings with high-level officials in Lomé in this regard. The Centre also maintained contacts with the United Nations peace-building support offices in Africa. In the Central African Republic, such contacts involved the search for operational ways and resources for conducting arms collection programmes and civil-military relations activities. In Guinea-Bissau, they involved the provision of technical support for the organization of a forum on national reconciliation and the role of the armed and security forces in the democratic stabilization of the country.

7. At the regional level, the Centre, as a resource institution, provided technical support to the Commission of the African Union in the formulation of the African common defence and security policy and the African stand-by force. In this context, it participated in the meetings which led to the adoption of these instruments in February 2004.

8. The strategic approach adopted by the Centre over the past few years has been to make itself ready to provide, upon request, the necessary technical support for the peace initiatives and peace processes taking place in Africa. This approach is predicated by the will of the stakeholders in this field to complement their efforts with the necessary disarmament elements which have become an essential part of most of the peace processes and peace initiatives in Africa. Political negotiations in the context of several peace accords invariably include disarmament elements for which the Centre's input have proven to be essential in a number of situations. Programmes of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants are also vital and integral elements of most peace processes. In this connection and on a pilot basis, the Centre launched a consultative process on training for peace operations with ECOWAS. It also initiated a partnership in this area with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.

9. The Centre continued to work with the United Nations peace-building support offices established in the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia, supporting their efforts in collecting and destroying surplus weapons and initiating a process of harmonization of civil-military relations.

10. The Centre also continued to provide support to the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the preparation of documentation for the Committee's meetings, the organization of expert and ministerial meetings and in the process that would lead to establishing, in the Central African subregion, a civil society network in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.[1] In this context, the Centre elaborated a project proposal comprising modalities for the establishment of the network and laying out the priority areas for capacity-building for civil society organizations. In Equatorial Guinea, from 21 to 25 June 2004, the Centre provided substantive and secretarial support to the experts and ministerial meetings of the Committee, held in Malabo.

11. The Centre continued to carry out, during the reporting period, two main activities deriving from the civil-military relations programme which it launched in collaboration with the African Union in October 2001. These were the training workshop for parliamentary defence committees for West Africa and the sensitization campaign on crisis prevention and conflict resolution.

Training workshop for the Parliamentary Defence Committees in West Africa

12. From 21 to 24 April 2004, the Centre convened in Lomé a regional workshop with the objective of building the capacity of members of the parliamentary defence committees in the member States of ECOWAS, on the modern techniques and tools for:

(a) Ensuring effective parliamentary control over the military institutions;

(b) Increasing the awareness of parliamentarians of military programming matters;

(c) Facilitating the approval by parliaments of the defence policy and budget, enhancing the knowledge of parliamentary defence committees, and enabling the parliamentarians serving in these committees to participate fully in the formulation of national defence policies and national defence budgets;

(d) Enhancing the awareness of parliamentarians of conditions regulating the intervention of the military and the relevant laws pertaining thereto.

13. The workshop was organized, in collaboration with the Commission of the African Union and in partnership with the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat and ECOWAS Parliament, and with the support of the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

Sensitization campaign

14. The Centre, as a means of increasing greater awareness of issues of peace, security and disarmament, organized a number of consultations within the framework of the African Disarmament Forum and facilitated the organization of round-table discussions on the question of democracy and the culture of peace for crisis prevention and conflict management in Africa, initiated by the Rotary Club of Togo. It made presentations to a number of similar initiatives, including the meeting held in Dakar, from 27 to 29 April 2004, on the topic "African encounter for the defence of human rights", organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in collaboration with the African network for the defence of human rights.

B. Disarmament and arms control

15. During the reporting period, the Centre continued to hold consultations with Member States in promoting compliance with and the signature and ratification of major disarmament and arms control legal instruments and norms, with emphasis on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba). Where possible, the Centre also collaborated with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA),

intergovernmental organizations and Governments in support of actions in the implementation of these instruments.

16. The Centre continued to implement its clearing-house project which consists of building the capacity of Member States for the control of small arms and light weapons. In this context, from 8 to 12 September 2003 the Centre organized in Yaoundé a training of trainers workshop for the armed and security forces in the Central African subregion, in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon, the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and the International Relations Institute of Cameroon. Senior military security and other civilian officials working on small arms control issues from the 11 member States of ECCAS participated. The training curriculum for the workshop was designed and adopted at the meeting of experts held in Lomé on 30 June and 1 July 2003. The training workshop and the meeting of experts were financed by the Governments of Cameroon and Japan.

17. The Centre also continued to provide support to Member States in the establishment and strengthening of national focal points and national commissions and relevant civil society organizations in the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. In this context, with the financial support of the Government of France, the Centre organized, on 9 and 10 February 2004, a capacity-building workshop for the 16 members of the national commission of Togo. It facilitated substantively the establishment and the launch of the Togo national coalition of civil society organizations for the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Small arms transparency and control regime in Africa

18. On 1 October 2003, the Centre officially launched the pilot project entitled "Small arms transparency and control regime in Africa". The project, financed by the Governments of Finland and Sweden, is aimed at implementing the recommendations that encourage States to promote transparency in the flows of small arms, on a voluntary basis, contained in the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and in the Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Ten countries are participating in the initial stage of the project, namely, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Gabon, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Togo.

19. The objectives of the project are to improve understanding of the ways in which weapons are diverted from licit into illicit channels and, by so doing, help Governments to generate tighter arms control measures to prevent such diversions, and to initiate a process of confidence-building through openness in the licit flows and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in Africa.

20. The project activities are focused on the following key areas: (a) organization of a regional workshop on transparency, to discuss and approve a framework for action and a work programme, and the training of participants in the techniques of collecting, collating and dispatching the reports expected from each country; (b) conduct of an inventory of local traditional small arms and light weapons producers in private or public-owned facilities; and (c) creation of small arms and light weapons databases at the level of each of the core countries, on the basis of a

uniform format, and development of a regional register to be known as the Small Arms and Light Weapons Register for Africa (SALWRA).

Plea in favour of the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and of ratification of the Treaty of Pelindaba

21. During the reporting period, the Centre and IAEA worked in close collaboration to promote nuclear non-proliferation in Africa through the organization of two subregional seminars on a strengthened safeguards system. The first, for member States of ECOWAS, was held in Ouagadougou on 26 and 27 February 2004 and the second, for member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), in Windhoek from 29 to 31 March 2004. Both of the seminars were aimed at promoting the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and raising awareness in order to garner support for the earliest entry into force of the Treaty of Pelindaba.

22. With regard to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, emphasis was placed on the conclusion of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols with IAEA, access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and on the peaceful application to nuclear technology. In this connection, States were encouraged to sign comprehensive safeguards with IAEA. As regards the Treaty of Pelindaba, the importance of its early entry into force was underlined and, in this context, States that had not yet ratified the Treaty were encouraged to do so as soon as possible. In addition, it was proposed that IAEA be invited to participate in future high-level meetings and summit meetings of African heads of State so that it could promote the conclusion of comprehensive safeguards agreements.

C. Information, research and publications

23. Information, research and publications continued to be part of the essential activities of the Centre. The Centre published one issue of its quarterly publication, *African Peace Bulletin*, with a special focus on conflict resolution efforts in Africa. The Centre also organized media programmes, such as radio, television and press interviews, and issued press releases on its various activities. It continued to revise and update its web site, http://www.unrec.org, which featured pages such as those on the study series on African security, disarmament update, the fact sheet on African disarmament and current events. The Centre's library continued to serve the research and diplomatic community and others within and outside Lomé.

24. In September 2003, the Centre launched a musical compact disc, entitled "Africa ... Disarm!", at an official ceremony in Lomé, attended by Togolese authorities, representatives of various international and United Nations agencies, members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of civil society. The theme of the compact disc was inspired by the African cultural tradition in which music is linked to themes of tolerance and peace. Working closely with major song writers, musicians, musical professionals and other members of civil society in the production of the compact disc, the Centre opened a public debate about a subject that had previously belonged to the domain of diplomats, policy makers and security authorities, and which provided an opportunity for a broad spectrum of people to engage actively in contributing to the achievement of sustainable peace in Africa.

D. Cooperation with regional organizations and civil society

Strengthening cooperation with the African Union and other regional and subregional organizations

25. The Centre was invited to contribute substantially and to participate in the meeting of chiefs of defence staff and ministers of defence and security of the member States of the African Union in January 2004. The aim of the meeting was to examine and adopt an African common defence and security policy and its accompanying stand-by force. The Centre also discussed with the authorities of the African Union, including the Chairman of its Commission, its Commissioner for Peace and Security and senior officials of its conflict management centre, issues of common interest to the Union and the Centre, in particular project and partnership modalities and mechanisms for their execution.

26. During the reporting period, the Centre revitalized its cooperation with the Nairobi Secretariat[2] regarding the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, focusing on the exchange of information and participating in each other's activities. The Centre was invited to participate in the second ministerial review conference of the Nairobi Declaration in April 2004. During this meeting, the ministers adopted the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the ministerial declaration on strengthening the capacity to undertake action regarding small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa regions.

27. The Centre also continued its cooperation with the Executive Secretariat of the ECOWAS. It provided technical advice on issues of practical disarmament, such as the effective implementation of the moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of light weapons in West Africa,[3] the setting up of a small arms and light weapons unit at the Executive Secretariat and the establishment of a mechanism and measures to prevent illicit arms brokering activities in the subregion. In this context, the Centre served as a resource institution for the ECOWAS Conference on Combating Illicit Small Arms Brokering and Trafficking in West Africa, during which the implementation of the ECOWAS Code of Conduct on Small Arms and Light Weapons was reviewed.

28. Furthermore, the Centre maintained contact with the SADC secretariat and with the secretariat of ECCAS. Several consultations were held with ECCAS on the modalities through which ECCAS and the Centre would support and work together with civil society organizations in the Central African subregion with regard to the implementation of the ECCAS programme of priority activities for the implementation of the Programme of Action. In September 2003, the ECCAS secretariat collaborated with the Centre in the organization of a training workshop for armed and security forces on the control of small arms and light weapons in the Central African subregion.

Partnership with civil society organizations

29. Within the framework of its partnership with the African Strategic and Peace Research Group based in Lagos, two meetings were held at the Centre in February 2004 to discuss projects of common interest and strategies for their implementation. Both organizations continued to consider strategies for mobilizing resources for a

project to train civil society members in arms control measures, a project in which the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa is also participating.

30. The Centre has also maintained its active collaboration and partnership in information exchange and joint execution of programme and projects with the Open Society for Initiative of West Africa, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces, the latter two of which joined the Centre in promoting civil-military relations in Africa, particularly through the organization of the training workshop for members of the parliamentary defence committees in West Africa. The Institute for Security Studies continued to cooperate with the Centre on various aspects of the implementation in Africa of the Programme of Action and the Bamako Declaration. In this context, the Centre took part in the Institute's workshop on understanding and regulating arms control in South Africa, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in March 2004.

IV. Staffing, financing and administration

31. During the reporting period, persistent financial problems prevented the Centre from operating at full scale to implement its work programme. While some limited funds were pledged for the execution of a number of projects, the effective functioning of the Centre was hampered by insufficient resources to cover the operational costs. The Centre therefore continued to operate with a skeleton staff comprising, in addition to the Director, an associate expert sponsored by the Organisation internationale de la francophonie and locally recruited temporary General Service personnel. Three other staff members were recruited locally to implement the small arms transparency and control regime in Africa project.

32. In September 2003, the Centre benefited, for the third consecutive year, from the provision by the Government of Canada, for a six-month period, of a research intern selected and managed by Project Ploughshares, a Canadian non-governmental organization. In February 2004, the staffing of the Centre was reinforced for a six-month period by a research intern sponsored by the Monterey Institute of International Affairs, based in Monterey, California, United States of America. The Centre also received five interns from Australia, Canada, France, Togo and the United States of America during the reporting period. The work of the interns contributed to promoting the research capacity of the Centre, and enabled it to reach out to many stakeholders.

33. During the period under review, the Director of the Centre undertook several fund-raising missions within and outside Africa, with a view to strengthening the financial, staffing and operational base of the Centre. In this connection, visits to and contacts regarding partnership in project execution were made with a number of countries and institutions, including Cameroon, France, Gabon, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Togo and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, and Oxfam Great Britain. Also, every year, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs addresses a letter to Member States seeking financial support for the Centre.

34. During the reporting period, voluntary contributions in the amount of US$ 538,313 were received. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Finland, France and Luxembourg and to the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa for their financial contributions to and support for the activities of the Centre, and to the Government of Togo, the host country, for its overall support of the Centre. Information on the status of the Trust Fund for the Centre for the biennium 2002-2003 is contained in annex I to the present report.

35. Pursuant to the consideration by the General Assembly of the Secretary-General's proposals for strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises, funds have been allotted from the regular budget to bring the security level of the Centre up to minimum operating security standards.

V. Conclusions and observations

36. During the reporting period, the Centre received an increasing number of requests from Member States in the African region for the provision of substantive support to several peace initiatives and activities for conflict resolution. It continued to promote the implementation of multilateral legal instruments in the area of disarmament and of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The Centre also continued to consolidate working relations with the African Union, regional and subregional organizations, and civil society organizations in the field of peace, disarmament and security in Africa.

37. In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 40/151G, the Centre functions on the basis of existing resources within the United Nations Secretariat and on the voluntary contributions that Member States and other donors may offer. This operational arrangement, by which about 80 per cent of the required resources for the functioning of the Centre should come from voluntary contributions, has not ensured the institutional stability of the Centre. While one P-5 post for the Director of the Centre is funded from the regular budget, the costs of other Professional and support staff, security, utilities, office equipment, travel and project activities must be covered from voluntary contributions.

38. Despite, however, continued intensive fund-raising efforts by the Director who has, over the past years, devoted more than two thirds of his time to seeking to maintain an adequate level of voluntary contributions to the Centre, only limited financial contributions have been made to the Centre in support of its operations. A response to the letter of appeal circulated by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs has not been forthcoming. It was also apparent from the Director's most recent fund-raising missions that, while donors are ready to make financial contributions in support of projects and activities, many are reluctant to provide financial support for the operating costs of the Centre.

39. **Voluntary contributions are the key to ensuring the institutional stability of the Centre. Without a solid operational base, the Centre will not be able to implement its programme of work in fulfilment of its mandate. The Secretary-General is seriously concerned about the drastic reduction in voluntary contributions to the Centre during the period under review. As at 30 June 2004, the balance remaining in the Trust Fund for the Centre to cover its operating costs amounts to a mere US$ 2,608. If the financial situation of the Centre does not improve significantly in coming months, the Centre will not be able to operate and the temporary suspension or relocation of its operations in Lomé would have to be considered. This will seriously affect the revitalization process of the Centre, as called for by the General Assembly in resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997.**

40. **The Secretary-General therefore reiterates his appeal to Member States and organizations to make contributions to the Centre to enable it fully to fulfil its mandate in the African region, where challenges to peace and disarmament continue to grow alarmingly.**

Notes

[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

[2] The Nairobi Secretariat was established in November 2000, following the signature, on 15 March 2000, of the Nairobi Declaration and is responsible for the coordination of the implementation in the subregion of the Declaration and the United Nations Programme of Action.

[3] See A/53/763-S/1998/1194, annex.

Annex I

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for the biennium 2002-2003

	United States dollars
Fund balance, 31 December 2001	**84 580**
Income, 1 January 2002-31 December 2003	
Voluntary contributions[a]	**682 480**
Interest income	**13 690**
Other/miscellaneous income	**14 521**
Subtotal	**795 271**
Expenditures, 1 January 2001-31 December 2003	**350 176**
Fund balance, 31 December 2003	**445 095[b]**

Note: Information based on the financial statement for the period from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2003. During the period from 1 January to 30 June 2004, no additional contributions were received.

[a] In 2002, received from Belgium ($10,666), France ($67,506), Norway ($25,000), Sweden ($21,000) and the Organization of African Unity ($10,000). In 2003, received from Austria ($10,000), Finland ($376,901), France ($89,051), Luxembourg ($11,861), Norway ($25) and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa ($60,470).

[b] Of this balance, $310,827 is earmarked for the project entitled "Small arms transparency and control regime in Africa", $60,505 for the Open Society Initiative for West Africa project and the remaining $76,371 for the Centre's operating costs. As at 30 June 2004, the balance of $2,608 was available for the operating costs.

Annex II

Planned activities of the Centre for which funding is sought

Project I

A. Description

Title of project	Promotion of civil-military relations in Africa: a factor of peace and security
Purpose	Consolidation of the role of the military in the democratic process
	Adoption of a continent-wide code of conduct for armed forces and security forces in Africa
	Promotion of durable peace and security through harmonious civilian-military relations
Location	Project conceptualization and design: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, Lomé
	Project implementation: several African States
Duration	Two years
Number of participants	Two participants from each of the 50 African countries members of the African Union

B. Cost estimates

(United States dollars)

Project staff (three staff, two years)	223 600
Travel and conference costs (five days, 100 participants)	223 250
National project implementation in 10 pilot countries	45 000
Project operating costs	36 000
Publication and distribution of the code of conduct	21 750
Total	**549 600**

Project II

A. Description

Title of project	Capacity-building in small arms control for security and other law enforcement officials in the southern African subregion, member States of the Southern African Development Community
Purpose	Strengthening of the capacities of law-enforcement and other security officials in the southern African subregion by providing them with modern techniques and tools for small arms control
Location	First phase: meeting for the formulation of a curriculum, headquarters of the Centre Second phase: training-of-trainers workshop, Windhoek
Duration	Six months
Number of participants	55 from the subregion, 12 resource persons, one project coordinator

B. Cost estimates

(United States dollars)

Curriculum formulation workshop (three days, 12 experts), bringing together 12 experts from the subregion to reflect on and adopt elements compiled by the Centre for a training curriculum	22 520
Project coordinator for the training-of-trainers programme (five months)	8 000
Training-of-trainers workshop (two weeks, 50 participants, 12 trainers)	215 550
Total	**246 070**

Project III

A. Description

Title of project	Capacity-building of focal points within the framework of the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa
Partnership	Nairobi Secretariat and relevant non-governmental organizations active in the field

Purpose	Strengthening, and helping to establish where they do not yet exist, the focal point institutions charged with the responsibility of implementing the Nairobi Declaration at the national level in the signatory States
Location	Project implementation: 10 States signatories to the Nairobi Declaration (Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda)
Duration	Ten weeks
Number of participants	Ten participants, from the 10 above-mentioned States

B. Cost estimates

(United States dollars)

Project design and operation (includes one project coordinator, four months)	9 900
Publication of teaching manuals	15 750
National workshops (includes travel of two resource persons, project coordinator and two staff members, and conference and operating costs)	77 000
Total	**102 650**